UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Green Party leader spouts Russian propaganda in Parliament

See Page 3

Conservatives call for lethal weapons for Ukraine

Liberals also urged to pass Magnitsky act and sanction Sechin and Yakunin

By Marco Levytsky

Members of the Conservative Party called upon the government of Canada to provide lethal weapons for Ukraine during the debate on Operation Unifier in the House of Commons, March 20.

They also called for the passage of a Canadian Magnitsky act which would sanction corrupt foreign officials, and renewing the supply of RadarSat imagery to Ukraine.

Both New Democrats and the Conservatives called for the extension of Canadian sanctions against both Igor Sechin, head of Russia' state oil company Rosneft and Vladimir Yakunin, former head of Russian Railways, both of whom have been on U.S. sanctions list since 2014.

"Violent intentions in Ukraine are on the rise with an increase in violations of the Minsk peace agreements. Unfortunately, the Liberal support for Ukraine is on the decline," stated James Bezan, Conservative Defense Critic and member for Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman.

"Extending our Conservative military mission in Ukraine is welcome, but there is more that Canada can offer. The Liberals have already cancelled supplies of radar satellite images, they refuse to sign the defence co-operation agreement, and they have backed down from their campaign promise to implement Magnitsky-style sanctions on corrupt foreign officials.

"Will the Liberals stop disappointing our Ukrainian allies and respect the request for providing lethal defensive weapons?," he added.

Responding to the question, Defence Minister Harjit S. Sajjan stated: "Our government stands shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine. With our military planners and whole-of-government approach, we consult with our allies, the U.K. and the U.S., in making sure that we have the right support.

"Operation Unifier is just one portion of that. We also take a look at the wider support that we have provided, such as our support with Operation Reassurance; sending troops into Latvia, which sends a strong message to Russia; our air policing that we will be doing; and the frigate that we have there. In totality, this sends an extremely strong message to Russia."

Bezan pressed on noting: "We called on the government to add Ukraine to the automatic firearms country control list so that officials could come to Canada and buy Canadian-made weapons.

"They have to be able to defend themselves. If we could supply them with sniper rifles, Javelin missiles, anti-tank missiles, if we could provide them with the equipment to take out any short-range mortar attacks and defend their sovereignty, defend their troops, defend civilians in Ukraine, they would be better off. Canada would be better off and all of NATO would be better off if Ukraine was better able to defend itself. If the Ukrainian military had the equipment it needs to stop the advancement of Russia and its imperialistic advancement into eastern Ukraine, and who knows how far it is willing to go, Ukraine would be able to slow down the progress and prevent us some point down the line from having to put our troops in harm's way

Cont. on P. 8

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Resurrection by Dominika Koziak

Dominika Koziak is a Ukrainian-Polish artist from Edmonton. She learned Iconography at the Prosopon School of Iconology in New York. She accepts commissions for Icons, and sells her work from the ACUA Gallery. She can be reached at dominikakoziak@hotmail.com.

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Міністри Фріланд і Саджжан проголошують продовження операції «UNIFIER» в Парламенті, 6 березня

Канада неухильно підтримує Україну

Христя Фріланд і Гарджіт Саджжан

Нещодавно ми оголосили, що військово-навчальну місію уряду Канади в Україні, операцію «UNIFIER», буде продовжено ще на два роки. Відновлюючи цю місію, ми не тільки нарощуємо вже наявні міцні економічні, соціальні, військові та культурні зв'язки між Канадою та Україною, але й привселюдно надсилаємо стримувальний сигнал Росії. Канада пишається тим, що знаходиться на передньому краї підтримки, яку світове співтовариство надає народові України в його прагненні до безпеки, суверенітету та стабільності.

Протягом минулого року військовослужбовці Канадських збройних сил, задіяні в операції «UNIFIER», займалися, головним чином, переданням професійних солдатських навичок військовослужбовцям Збройних сил України. Понад 3200 українських військових пройшли підготовку з бойового забезпечення, озброєння та снайперства, розпізнавання погрози вибухових матеріалів, організації роботи військової поліції та першої медичної допомоги в бою. Ми з задоволенням заявляємо, що ці зусилля з навчання продовжаться. На початку цього року наш уряд оголосив призначення Джілл Сінклер до Консультативної ради з оборонної реформи України. Пані Сінклер є заслуженим державним службовцем з досвідом в галузях іноземних справ та оборони, і тепер вона робить цінний внесок у процес оборонної реформи України.

Канада стояла пліч-о-пліч з Україною під час Революції Гідності і надалі під час військової анексії Росією української території. Ми стоїмо поруч з Україною й тепер і будемо солідарні з нею й надалі. Починаючи з 2014 року, Канада, разом зі своїми союзниками з НАТО, бере участь у зусиллях з підтримки безпеки та стабільності в Центральній та Східній Європі. Ми надсилаємо Росії рішучий сигнал в різних формах тим, що продовжуємо здійснювати військове навчання в Україні, проведенням повітряної поліційної роботи в Румунії, присутністю нашого фрегата в Чорному морі та в формі нещодавно оголошеного створення бойової групи НАТО під проводом Канади в Латвії.

Давня рішуча підтримка Канади народу України висвітлилася під час торішнього візиту прем'єр-міністра Джастіна Трюдо, під час якої наші країни підписали історичну угоду про вільну торгівлю. Ми чекаємо на зустріч з міністром Степаном Полтораком для підписання Угоди про співробітництво в галузі оборони між нашими країнами.

Військова допомога є часткою *підтримки, яку надає Україні уряд* Канади і яка охоплює розвиток та гуманітарну допомогу, двосторонню торгівлю та військово-оборонну співпрацю. Операція «UNIFIER», завдяки якій канадські Збройні сили допомагають будувати, розвивати та модернізувати потенціал Збройних сил України, є критично важливою деталлю багатогранної допомоги Україні. Крім того, партнерство між нашим збройними силами ще більше зміцнило чудові стосунки, що поєднують наші народи. Ми вдячні за теплий прийом який влаштовують канадцям в Україні і бажаємо подякувати народові України за гостинність, що виказуються нашим військовим.

Канаду та Україну поєднують унікальні узи. Канада сповнена рішучості підтримувати народ України в розбудові безпечної, стабільної та квітучої країни.

Христя Фріланд є міністром закордонних справ Канади; Гарджіт Саджжан є міністром оборони Канади.

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Ukraine issue is black and white, Freeland tells May

Bezan blasts Green Party leader for regurgitating Russian propaganda

(UkrNews)—The Ukraine issue is clearly a case a black and white, Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland told Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, during the House of Commons debate on Operation Unifier, March 20.

"I appreciate that it is a badge of honour for the minister personally to have been singled out by Vladimir Putin for sanctions, but on the other hand, the situation in the region is one in which we do not want to let things devolve into black and white. Crimea is clearly culturally different and it is Russian in its makeup. Solzhenitsyn, even as the USSR was falling apart, asked what would be done for Russian nationals who had been distributed through all of these other states. There is a complexity here that I do not want us to lose so that we can play a diplomatic role," started May, the MP for Saanich—Gulf Islands.

"While I agree in large measure with what the minister has said, I remain concerned that Poroshenko came to power initially through what looks a lot like a coup. Now we want to support the people of Ukraine, but we also want to support the cause of peace and turning down the temperature.

"I wonder if the minister has any help for me, given that I very briefly expressed something too complex for brevity," she added.

"Since I have to be very brief, let me say that I absolutely agree that politics are complex, domestic politics are complex, and international politics are complex, but some issues are black and white.

"The invasion of Crimea and its subsequent annexation were illegal. They were clear violations of international law. That is why the world community has been united in opposing them, and that is why our government is proud to oppose them clearly and unambiguously," responded Freeland

Then Conservative Defence Critic James Bazan entered the fray and blasted May for regurgitating Russian propaganda.

"To hear the member for Saanich—Gulf Islands talk about a coup, she is completely discrediting the students, the citizens of Kyiv, the citizens of Lviv, the citizens right across Ukraine who took to the streets to protest against the corrupt government of Viktor Yanukovych and everything that he stood for," said Bezan.

"He turned his back, after negotiating a comprehensive economic free trade agreement and co-operation agreement with Europe that actually was the catalyst for the people of Ukraine, especially the youth, tired of being lied to by Viktor Yanukovych and his regime. He was there, propped up by Vladimir Putin, propped up by illegal money coming in from the Russian mafia, funnelled through Donbas, especially through Donetsk. That individual robbed the treasury of the people of Ukraine. He took all of the gold reserves, all of the cash reserves, and fled to Rostov-on-Don in Russia.

"That was not a coup. It was not orchestrated by anyone in the west. This was a citizens' revolution of dignity on the Euromaidan that took place in Kyiv and across Ukraine. We must never, ever forget that. For anyone to come in here with fake news from RT television, Russia Today television, I can say upsets me, as members can tell, to no extent of my better judgment," he added.

Top U.S. military commander in Europe calls for lethal weaponry for Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—The top U.S. military commander in Europe again backed sending more advanced weaponry to Ukraine to help it in its fight against Russia-backed separatists.

U.S. Army General Curtis Scaparrotti's comments on March 28 reflected on the continuing debate that erupted following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, and the separatist insurgency that later broke out.

"I personally believe we need to consider lethal defensive weapons for Ukraine," Scaparrotti told a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee.

The administration of then-President Barack Obama sent Ukraine flak jackets, night-vision goggles, and other equipment. But officials resisted calls, in Congress and elsewhere, to send "lethal defensive weaponry" such as Javelin antitank missiles, fearing that would invite escalation from Russia.

Obama's successor, Donald Trump, has spoken of a more conciliatory approach toward Russia since his election, but has made no indication one way or another if more serious weaponry was under consideration.

Some of his cabinet members, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, have made pointed comments indicating a tougher approach to Moscow than Trump himself has espoused.

McCain "optimistic" on U.S. lethal aid to Ukraine

(UNIAN)—The Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Sen. John McCain expressed optimism regarding the possible provision of lethal aid to Ukraine by Donald Trump's administration, at a joint press conference with Sen. Ron Johnson in Brussels, according to an UNIAN correspondent.

"Obviously, for many years, I have approved of at least the modalities of Ukraine's entry into NATO. I would say, the first priority for Ukraine and the United States is to give Ukraine lethal weapons, defensive weapons with which to defend themselves, such as Javelin, counterbattery radar, and other capabilities," McCain said on March 26.

Answering an UNIAN reporter's question on the time frame of lethal aid provision, McCain expressed hope that the current U.S. administration could implement such decision as at least some officials are inclined to do so.

"I cannot predict that result but I'm optimistic because I have to be optimistic, because Vladimir Putin has recently stepped up their military activities in eastern Ukraine, as we know. And he will continue to do that as long as he thinks he could get away with it." McCain said.

"At least we owe these people the ability to defend their sovereign nation which has been invaded by the so-called 'separatists,' and we know who they are," the U.S. Senator said.

Commenting on the violent death of a lawyer in Magnitsky case in Moscow and the latest assassination of Russia's exiled former MP Voronenkov, McCain said that "Vladimir Putin is behaving with impunity, like the thug and gangster that he is."

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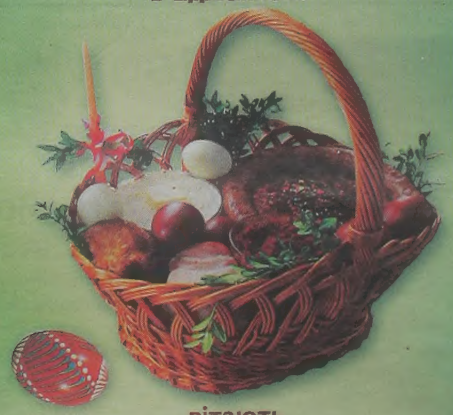

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Справа Сташинського у секретних документах КҐБ

Ірина Штогрін, *Радіо Свобода*

Служба зовнішньої розвідки України виклала в інтернет сім томів «Справи оперативної розробки агента КҐБ Богдана Сташинського», який убив провідників ОУН Степана Бандеру та Лева Ребета. Розсекречені документи дають змогу відстежити методи роботи КҐБ, зрозуміти, як радянські спецслужби боролися з українським підпіллям, дізнатися, як навчали «агентів» та як фінансували утримання їхніх родин.

Матеріали справи агента МҐБ-КҐБ Богдана Сташинського «Олега-Тараса», який 15 жовтня 1959 року зі спеціального пістолета вистрілив струменем розчину ціанистого калію в обличчя Степана Бандери, відтепер доступні усім користувачам інтернету.

Сім томів «справи Сташинського» відцифрувала і зробила доступними Служба зовнішньої розвідки України на виконання Закону України «Про доступ до архівів репресивних органів комуністичного тоталітарного режиму 1917-1991 років».

Портрет провідника ОУН Степана Бандери, вбитого агентом КҐБ Богданом Сташинським у Мюнхені в 1959 році

Перший том, зокрема, містить анкету та автобіографію агента тогочасного Міністерства державної безпеки (Міністерства Ґосударственной безопастности -МҐБ - російською—ред.)) Совєтського Союзу «Олега» Богдана Сташинського.

Також, у першому томі зібрані протоколи допитів Сташинського від 1950 року, звіти про оперативне стеження та агентурні записки за 1951 рік, агентурні донесення «Олега», плани МҐБ щодо ліквідації членів ОУН, матеріали спеціальної перевірки Богдана Сташинського для роботи за кордоном, довідки про перевірку його рідних, а також фотографії оперативної зйомки та з особистого архіву Сташинського «Олега».

У матеріалах другого тому Богдан Сташинський вже отримує нове агентурне ім'я «Тарас». Саме агент під цим іменем фігурує у звітах про проникнення у націоналістичне підпілля з подальшим розсекреченням повстанських «боївок», арештами та розстрілами.

Розсекречені матеріали показують як Сташинського-Тараса готують до нелегальної роботи в Західній Німеччині, зокрема, як розробляють його «легенду» під ім'ям Мюллера, Франца, Іогана, Еріха.

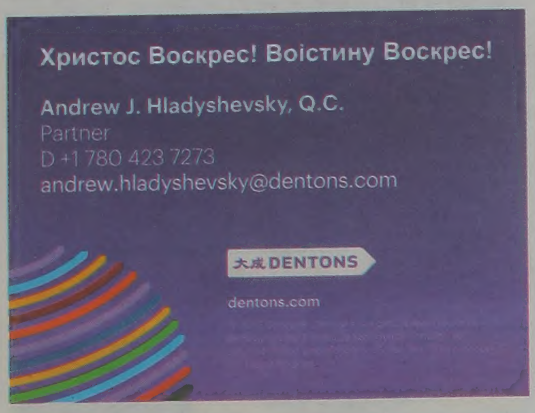
МҐБ відстежує і особисту переписку «Тараса». Так із листів Богдана Сташинського до батьків видно, що він переконує їх не підтримувати «самостійну» і підпілля. Інакше, як пише Сташинський, він уже вдруге не зможе врятувати рідних від «тюрми».

Третій, четвертий, п'ятий томи «справи Сташинського» демонструють, як наполегливо МҐБ-КҐБ готувало «Олега-Тараса» для терористичних актів проти лідерів української національно-визвольної боротьби, а з іншого боку як ретельно «пасли» самого Сташинського та його родину. У цих томах також є документи про регулярне надання родині агента «Олега-Тараса» грошових сум у розмірі 400 рублів та розписки про їх отримання.

Шостий та сьомий том розсекречених Зовнішньою розвідкою України матеріалів справи «Олега-Тараса» уже стосуються безпосередньо убивства Степана Бандери та подальшої долі Богдана Сташинського.

Серед іншого, ці томи містять роздруківки радіопрограм Радіо Свобода та «Голосу Америки», де мовиться про убивство Бандери та агента КҐБ (з 1954 року Міністерство держбезпеки СССР назвали комітетом – ред.) Сташинського.

У сьомому томі є і плани заходів КҐБ УССР у зв'язку із зникненням Богдана Сташинського у 1961 році разом із його дружиною – німкенею Інге Поль. Тоді Сташинському дозволили приїхати до Східної Німеччини на похорон маленького сина, але він втік у Західний Берлін.



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Вітає українську громаду з нагоди Празника Христового Воскресіння. Нехай Мир і Радість сходять на нас, коли співаємо Христос Воскрес!

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Wishing you all a Happy Easter Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Представники ГУАМ підписали протокол про створення ЗВТ

(Радіо Свобода)—Представники урядів Грузії, України, Азербайджану і Молдови (ГУАМ) на саміті в Києві 27 березня підписали протокол до угоди про вільну торгівлю щодо створення робочого органу координації дій сторін у рамках угоди.

За повідомленням уряду України, підписання документів відбулося у присутності прем'єр-міністра України Володимира Гройсмана, прем'єр-міністра Грузії Георгія Квірікашвілі, прем'єр-міністра Молдови Павла Філіпа і віце-прем'єр-міністра Азербайджану Ісмета Дурсун огли Абасова.

«Важливо, що ми сьогодні підписали низку документів, які дозволять нам вже у 2017 році повноцінно запровадити зону вільної торгівлі у рамках наших держав. Це сприятливо позначиться на розвитку наших національних економік, поглибить наше співробітництво», – сказав Володимир Гройсман.

Крім того, сторони підписали протокол про визнання окремих видів митних процедур щодо товарів і транспортних засобів, які переміщуються через державний кордон країн ГУАМ.

Організація за демократію та економічний розвиток ГУАМ із участю Грузії, України, Азербайджану і Молдови була заснована у 1997 році. Із 1999 по 2005-й до організації також входив Узбекистан, і тоді вона звалася ГУУАМ. Але це об'єднання так і не стало постійно активною міжнародною організацією, переживши кілька сплесків активності і періодів застою.

Kyiv identifies suspected gunman in ex-Duma deputy's assassination

By Christopher Miller

(RFE/RL)—The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has confirmed the identity of the suspected gunman in the assassination in Kyiv on March 23 of a former Russian lawmaker who fled last year to Ukraine.

A ministry spokesman told RFE/RL that the man seen shooting ex-Duma Deputy Denis Voronenkov and a bodyguard in security-camera footage of the incident is 28-year-old, Crimean-born Ukrainian national Pavlo Parshov.

Parshov died in a hospital of bullet wounds suffered when the wounded bodyguard returned fire after the suspect shot Voronenkov multiple times in the head on a downtown sidewalk.

Anton Herashchenko, a nationalist lawmaker and adviser to Ukraine's interior minister, alleged in a Facebook post that Parshov was a secret agent for Russian security services.

He said the Russians helped Parshov cross into Belarus and make his way to Russia, where he "trained in a sabotage school created in the time of Stalin's NKVD," a reference to former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's hated secret police.

Herashchenko alleged that Parshov was ordered to return to Ukraine and infiltrate a unit of the armed forces or the National Guard "to pretend he was an ordinary soldier" and then lay low until his Russian handlers activated him recently to kill Voronenkov.

Parshov reportedly served for 13 months in the Ukrainian National Guard before leaving the force in August.

Amid media reports that pointed the finger at Parshov, the spokesman, Artem Shevchenko, said his ministry was leaving a public announcement of the suspect's name to Kyiv prosecutors investigating the daylight shooting.

Ukrainian officials have blamed Russia, which invaded Ukraine in 2014 and has since backed separatists resisting national government control in eastern Ukraine, but neither officials nor investigators have publicly produced evidence linking Moscow to the crime.

The Kremlin has rejected as "absurd" accusations that Russia was involved.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on March 24 called it "a matter of honor for Ukrainian law enforcement and security structures" to successfully investigate Voronenkov's killing and last year's car-bomb assassination of journalist Pavel Sheremet, also in the capital.

Within hours of Voronenkov's death, he had suggested the killing was "an act of state terrorism on the part of Russia."

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry's website lists Parshov as a fugitive wanted in the southeastern Dnipro region for allegedly creating fake businesses and laundering money. A mugshot accompanying the entry shows a man with dark eyes, short dark hair, and a trimmed beard. It states his birthdate as July 28, 1988.

Voronenkov and his wife, a fellow ex-legislator who fled Russia with her husband in October, were publicly critical of Russian President Vladimir Putin since they landed in Kyiv, comparing Russia to Nazi Germany.

But Voronenkov was also said to be testifying for Ukrainian authorities as they tried to bolster their case that ousted ex-President Viktor Yanukovych played a role in the deployment of Russian forces to Ukraine amid the street unrest that eventually forced him into Russian exile in February 2014.

Moscow resisted recognizing the subsequent government in Kyiv and occupied and seized Crimea and, according to NATO and the Ukrainian government, has been arming and supporting separatist fighters in eastern Ukraine ever since.

Voronenkov was not universally trusted among Ukrainians, some of whom questioned his loyalties and Kyiv's quick decision to grant him citizenship.

Voronenkov was a Communist Party deputy in the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, from 2011 until an election in September 2016 and was the target of Russian allegations of millions in property theft in Moscow before he fled.

He told RFE/RL in an interview last month that he feared for his own and his wife's safety, noting that "we are poking a sore spot of the Kremlin with our statements."

Ukrainian authorities subsequently provided Voronenkov with a bodyguard.

Ilya Ponomarev, another former Russian lawmaker who defected to the West and the only Duma deputy to have voted against Crimea's annexation, said in a post on Facebook that Voronenkov was on his way to meet him when he was shot. But that information has not been confirmed.

"There are no words," Ponomarev wrote, adding the scenario seemed an "obvious" one to him.

"I said [before] that Voronenkov is not a crook but an investigator, deadly dangerous for Russian law-enforcement officers. My deepest condolences to Maria Maksakova," he said.

The killing could have far-reaching consequences for Ukraine, which is locked in a three-year conflict with Russia-backed militants in its eastern regions that has cost the lives of more than 9,900 people.

Volodymyr Ariev, a Ukrainian lawmaker from Poroshenko's ruling party, on Twitter likened the murder to a "new Litvinenko case," a reference to the former-Russian-spy-turned-British-operative who fled Moscow for London and was murdered in 2006. The assassination by radioactive poisoning was "probably" approved by President Vladimir Putin, a U.K. inquiry found last year.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said on March 24 that it was "in support of a full and impartial investigation [of Voronenkov's killing] that will bring those responsible to justice."

Policemen hold Maria Maksakova, Voronenkov's wife, as she reacts at the scene of her husband's killing.

Христос Воскрес!

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Provide lethal arms and extend sanctions

Editorials

The four-and-a-half-hour debate on the renewal of Operation Unifier, held in the House of Commons on March 20, raised a number of issues that are very relevant to Canada's support for Ukraine in its struggle against brutal Russian aggression.

Chief among them was the provision of lethal weapons for Ukraine, the expansion of Canada's sanctions list to include Russian oligarchs Igor Sechin and Vladimir Yakunin, passage of a Magnitsky law to punish corrupt foreign officials, resumption of the provision of RadarSat imagery for Ukraine, and support for the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Program.

It is quite ironic that two of these critical issues – the provision of lethal weapons and the expansion of Canada's sanctions list — were raised by the Conservatives, since they did not act upon these proposals when they were in government.

A cynic may note that it is easy to say one thing in opposition and quite another to act upon it in government. But another plausible explanation for this change of heart may be the change in the persons articulating Conservative policy on these issues — namely James Bezan in Defence and Peter Kent in Foreign Affairs. During the debate on these issues Kent even admitted that leaving Sechin and Yakunin off the sanctions list by the Conservative government was a mistake. And even though Bezan, as Parliamentary Secretary to former Defense Minister Jason Kenney, loyally supported his superior, we could sense that he wasn't entirely happy with the position on lethal arms, even at that time.

Regardless of what reason one may attribute to the Conservatives' change of heart, the fact remains that both these proposals are valid and should be acted upon by the Liberal government.

On the issue of lethal aid both the previous Conservative took, and current Liberal government take, the position that Canada must act in concert with its allies. Thus, the question of supplying lethal arms to Ukraine depends upon the United States and the European Union. And when it all boils down to the nuts and bolts, this really means the United States.

And that's a problem. U.S. policy towards Russia is frankly confusedr – one could even say schizophrenic.

On the one hand, there is strong support for the supply of lethal weapons in the U.S. Congress, the U.S. military, the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, and even some members of the Cabinet. On the other, there are the very disturbing revelations about the Russian connections with members of President Donald Trump's team and with the president himself. This predicament is further magnified by the obstruction of a proper investigation into this scandal (which is beginning to make Watergate look like a tea party) on the part of both the Presidential Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress.

If, in the past, the argument for Canada to take unilateral action in providing lethal arms aid to Ukraine on the basis of our previous leadership role in recognizing Ukraine's independence in 1991 and election monitor in 2004, had definite merit, it is even more justified today in consideration of the leadership vacuum that exists in the United States.

As for the question of expansion of Canada's sanctions list to include both Sechin and Yakunin, here's where we really get into the nitty gritty of saying one thing in opposition and doing something totally different when in power. Much as we admire and respect Chrystia Freeland and categorically condemn Russian propaganda attempts to smear her and her grandfather, we must declare that her failure to implement sanctions against these two individuals and her deafening silence on this issue is most disconcerting. While in opposition, current Foreign Minister Freeland was the most vociferous of all the Liberal critics of the Conservatives' failure to extend the sanctions against these two Putin cronies who were among the first to be sanctioned by the United States in 2014. (The NDP also was very critical of their exclusion and remain so today).

The government may use the excuse that Yakunin is no longer President of Russian Railways, but he remains a close confidante of Putin and now heads an organization dedicated to spreading Russian disinformation. As for Sechin, he still is head of Russia's state-owned oil giant Rosneft, which continues to funnel its huge cash reserves into Putin's war machine.

One suspects that the real reason Yakunin has remained off Canada's list for so long is his relationship with Canada's biggest corporate welfare bum — Bombardier. Bombardier (whose CEO Alain Bellemare earned a compensation package worth $6.4 million in 2015) was the beneficiary of the Trudeau government's taxpayer-funded $372.5 million bailout last month.

In the case of Sechin, the reason could lie in the fact Rosneft has a 30% stake in the Cardium tight oil project in Alberta, run by Imperial Oil and ExxonMobil Canada. (Oddly enough Sechin remains on the U.S. sanctions list despite the fact that ExxonMobil's former CEO Rex Tillerson is now Secretary of State.)

As for the supply of radar satellite imagery to Ukraine, we are aware that the previous program had its drawbacks in that the provision of useful imagery was hampered by red tape. But, as we noted in a previous editorial, the solution is to cut the red tape – not the program.

Regarding funding for civil society and in particular the CUPP, Linda Duncan's suggestions should be taken into consideration. We understand that an application for funding for CUPP is currently being prepared and will be submitted to government. We shall be following this issue closely.

The debate on the renewal of Operation Unifier proved to be a very valuable exercise in that it brought many issues affecting Canada's relationship with Ukraine and issues that are of critical importance to Canada's large Ukrainian community to the forefront. We hope that parliament holds many more such constructive and thoughtful debates in the future.

Elizabeth May joins the "useful idiots" club

The term "useful idiot", which has been attributed to Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet totalitarian dictatorship, has often been used to describe Western politicians (usually on the left) who took Communist propaganda at face value and defended that totalitarian state.

Since assuming the leadership of the Soviet totalitarian state's successor, the Russian totalitarian state, Moscow dictator Vladimir Putin has continued to nurture "useful idiots" on the left, even adding his own variation of "purchased assets" on the right.

Sad to say, one of these "useful idiots" has emerged in the Parliament of Canada. We are referring specifically to Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party and its sole MP.

During the March 20 debate on Operation Unifier, May had the audacity to refer to the current government of Ukraine as one which "came to power initially through what looks a lot like a coup" and referred to Crimea as "clearly culturally different and it is Russian in its makeup."

Perhaps the Saanich people who not only live in May's riding, but also provided its name, should be made aware of how ignorant May is about other indigenous people in the world — we are referring specifically to the Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of Crimea, whom May completely ignored when she referred to Crimea as Russian.

And to refer to the current government of Ukraine as one which "came to power initially through what looks a lot like a coup" is totally outrageous.

As Conservative Defence Critic James Bezan put it: "That was not a coup. It was not orchestrated by anyone in the west. This was a citizens' revolution of dignity on the Euromaidan that took place in Kyiv and across Ukraine. *We must never, ever forget that.* For anyone to come in here with fake news from RT television, Russia Today television, I can say upsets me, as members can tell, to no extent of my better judgment."

In the previous issue, we editorialized about how the mainstream media should be wary of Russia's propaganda machine and how Putin's disinformation campaign threatens the very foundations of Western democracy.

Elizabeth May's ignorance just goes to show how pervasive Russian propaganda can be among elected officials and why we must continue to battle it.

As for Elizabeth May herself, we hope that all our readers in Saanich—Gulf Islands remember her statements and spread the word among their friends so that – come next election – they can all give her the well-placed boot that she deserves.

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Here's why the latest Trump-Russia revelations are so important

Commentary

By Paul Waldman, *Washington Post, March 22, 2017*

Today brings yet another shocking revelation in the ever-widening Trump-Russia scandal, and Democrats are growing increasingly frustrated that this controversy isn't an even bigger deal than it is. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) wants a delay in the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court while the FBI's investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia is ongoing, but no one seems to take the idea seriously.

So why is it that this scandal hasn't yet risen to the level occupied by Watergate, Iran-contra and Monica Lewinsky? I have an explanation, but first let's look at what we learned today, from Jeff Horwitz and Chad Day of the Associated Press:

President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, secretly worked for a Russian billionaire to advance the interests of Russian President Vladimir Putin a decade ago and proposed an ambitious political strategy to undermine anti-Russian opposition across former Soviet republics, The Associated Press has learned. The work appears to contradict assertions by the Trump administration and Manafort himself that he never worked for Russian interests.

This raises far more questions than I have space to ask at the moment, but among them are: Did Manafort's $10-million-a-year contract to advance Russian interests ever end, and if so, when? He took no salary to run the Trump campaign, so who was paying him at that time? What was his role in removing tough language on Russia's aggression in Ukraine from the Republican platform? How did Trump come to hire Manafort in the first place?

Manafort confirmed that he worked for Oleg Deripaska but says it involved only "business and personal matters in countries where he had investments." But if AP's reporting is true in its entirety, the man who ran Donald Trump's presidential campaign had worked secretly to advance the interests of Vladimir Putin's regime.

And Manafort is only one piece of the Trump-Russia puzzle. Why is it that so many Trump advisers have connections to Russia, often financial ones? Why has Trump gotten so much money from Russian oligarchs

Cont. on P.7

A peculiar smear

By Askold S. Lozynskyj

Canada's foreign minister has been the subject of a peculiar smear. No one questions her competence or qualifications. In fact, she is perceived almost as a hero by many having been blacklisted by the Russians for her efforts and outspokenness on such noble issues as human rights and the sovereignty of countries. For some reason, that I personally cannot understand, recently she has been disparaged in the Western press because she is the granddaughter of one, Michael Chomiak, her maternal grandfather. The alleged sins of her forefather have been ascribed to her genetically by no less noble an accuser than Russia.

This is somewhat troubling not from the Russian end but from the Western side. Svetlana Alliluyeva aka Lana Peters, the daughter of one of history's worst mass murderer Josef Stalin had never been disparaged for her father's egregious crimes. In fact she was perceived as being heroic for having overcome her demonic paternal influence. But she led a troubled life. Chrystia Freeland is an accomplished writer, journalist and politician.

Frankly, I should apologize to Minister Freeland and her late grandfather for the comparison. Sometimes its takes hyperbole to manifest how ludicrous some accusations can be. Svetlana Alliluyeva was no Chrystia Freeland and Michael Chomiak was no Josef Stalin.

For some reason no one bothers to address the veracity of the accusations leveled against Michael Chomiak despite the fact that Russia is the source. When Russia accuses, the presumption always should be that it's disinformation subject to the presentation of legitimate (non-Russian) evidence. In this case, the revelation of the source should have ended the debate which, in fact, should have never been initiated in the West.

Nonetheless, as long as there is a smear campaign resulting from innuendo, let's ask who was this Michael Chomiak? The consensus is that he was the editor in chief of a Ukrainian language newspaper "Krakivski Visti" published in Nazi occupied Poland and then briefly in Vienna. The unsubstantiated accusations are that he was somehow responsible for articles in that newspaper glorifying the Nazis and attacking the Jews.

Ivan Kedryn-Rudnytsky was a colleague of Michael Chomiak, having worked with him in several periodicals, "Dilo" in the Polish occupied Ukrainian city of Lviv, then in the "Krakivski Visti". Kedryn-Rudnytsky wrote about both Michael Chomiak and "Krakivski Visti" in his memoirs of more than 700 pages published in 1976 in the United States. Here are several passages. About "Krakivski Visti" he wrote:

"My side earnings came from writing for "Krakivski Visti", whose editor in chief was Michael Chomiak, my younger colleague from `Dilo`. Writing articles on Ukrainian or international topics was impossible totally under German occupation if the writer did not wish to write in the official tone of of German press political propaganda. It was also forbidden to write anything about or against the USSR, because from September 1939 until June 21, 1941, the Soviets were allies and our German communicators became angry when they heard from Ukrainians doubts about the longevity of German-Soviet friendship. The only theme was Poland..."

About Michael Chomiak, he wrote from an earlier time when both worked at "Dilo":

"Michael Chomiak – later the editor in chief of the daily "Krakivski Visti", now in Edmonton, (a nice person, a first-rate journalist, who earlier would send us under a pseudonym given the then circumstances in Lemkischyna – wonderful reports from Lemkivschyna working as a candidate to become an attorney from the office of his uncle Blavatsky in Sianosc.)"

And then about the later period Kedryn-Rudnytsky wrote about his colleague:

"Living in Warsaw over five years 1925-1930, and later traveling there almost monthly and staying for several weeks at a time during important meetings of the Sejm, I became like a specialist in Polish relations. This came in handy when after fleeing on foot from Lviv on September 18, 1939 to Krakiv, at the request of Michael Chomiak, a former younger member of the editorial board of "Dilo" where I had been the editor in chief, a person with a law degree, but a professional journalist and the editor in chief of the founded in Krakiv "Krakivski Visti". I wrote for "Krakivski Visti" a whole series of articles which appeared as a book in 1940 entitled `The Reasons why Poland fell`".

Ivan Kedryn-Rudnytsky was born of a Ukrainian father, also Ivan and a Jewish mother, Ida. Inasmuch as his father died when Ivan was ten years old, he was raised by his mother. Michael Chomiak did not have any problem working with this Ukrainian-Jewish journalist on more than one occasion. In fact as editor-in-chief of "Krakivski Visti" he employed him seemingly at his own peril since the Nazis most assuredly would not have approved of such a hiring. They remained friends long after the war.

If there were articles in "Krakivski Visti" glorifying the Nazis and disparaging the Jews, I doubt very much that Michael Chomiak penned them. Ivan Kedryn- Rudnytsky, a Ukrainian-Jewish journalist certainly would have mentioned that in his memoirs.

Nonetheless, all of this has absolutely nothing to do with Chrystia Freeland's qualifications as Canada's Foreign Minister or her ability to do her job for the people of Canada.

Here's why the latest Trump-Russia revelations are so important

Cont. from P. 6

and mob-connected individuals? What's the full extent of the measures the Russian government took to help Trump get elected, and was there any coordination with any Americans, including those connected to Trump?

In order to answer those questions, we need an independent commission with subpoena power, because Republicans in Congress have made it clear they have no intention of conducting anything resembling an investigation. If we ever get that commission, this could turn out to be the biggest scandal in the history of American politics.

So why aren't more people thinking about it that way yet? The primary reason may be the fact that it's so complicated and involves so many people, yet it lacks a single understandable explanation for what it's really all about. If you had to summarize the previous major scandals in a sentence or two, you could do it easily. "Bill Clinton had an affair with a young White House staffer." "The Reagan administration sold arms to terrorists, then used the profits to fund an illegal war in Central America." "Richard Nixon ran a criminal enterprise meant to destroy his political enemies." That last one may not capture the complexity of Watergate, but it gets to the heart of it. They're all reasonably understandable. But what's beneath the Russia scandal (for which we don't even have a name)? No one can figure it out, and that's what makes it easy to push to the side, especially when there's so much else going on. There has been a suggestion that Putin was blackmailing Trump into doing his bidding, but that was hard to believe. The best summary I can offer right now may be "Putin is trying to subvert American democracy and diminish American power, and Trump and his cronies might be helping him do it."

But even if that were true, it wouldn't explain the motive behind Trump's actions — and Manafort's, and Michael Flynn's, and Roger Stone's, and everyone else's. And why is it that the president himself goes to such comical lengths to defend Putin?

I'll admit that I don't know the answer.

The AP's new reporting on Manafort is a reminder both that extraordinary revelations continue to come out about this story and that we know so little about its full scope and reach. One thing that does seem obvious is that there is a lot more to be learned, and the Manafort revelations are not going to be the last.

Still, scandals sometimes take a long time to unfold. The Watergate break-in happened in June 1972; it would be two more years before Nixon finally resigned. George McGovern spent much of the 1972 campaign trying to convince people that it was a big deal, without much success.

What separates truly monumental scandals from the more mundane ones that most administrations experience is the personal involvement of the president. We don't yet know exactly what the extent of Trump's involvement in this scandal is, or what his motivations were. All of this might end up amounting to very little, or it could prove to be enormously consequential. Whatever it is, hopefully we'll be able to figure it all out.

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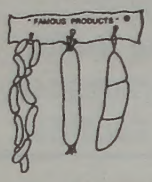

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Conservatives call for lethal weapons for Ukraine

Cont. from P. 1

to stop this war in Ukraine. We definitely do not want to see it spread to other NATO members."

Jean Rioux, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, replied: We are currently part of the International Joint Commission, and agreements exist that provide for the United States and other countries to deal with that. In 2014, the Conservative Party provided non-lethal equipment. I am thinking mainly of winter equipment, including boots and coats, and various types of equipment after that.

"Why would we not keep the Conservatives' approach while respecting the agreement with the International Joint Commission, of which we are part?"

In response to a Ukrainian News email asking whether this meant Canada was waiting to see what our allies would do in regard to the provision of lethal weapons for Ukraine, Jordan Owens, spokesperson for Sajjan replied: "Canada's military assistance to Ukraine is carefully coordinated with that of the United States and important European partners who share our vision of a free and prosperous Ukraine. Neither Canada, nor its partners are providing Ukraine with lethal aid."

He later added: "I wouldn't want you to interpret it as we would wait and see what our allies do before doing anything. There is an agreement for cooperative coordination between Canada, the UK, the US, and Lithuania to ensure that requests from Ukraine are addressed in coordination with other countries providing assistance, and we work within that rubric. This is the framework that was put in place by the previous government in January 2015."

Bezan also raised the issue of sanctions against Sechin and Yakunin noting that Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland called for their inclusion when in opposition.

"I just wish the minister would put in place the sanctions that she herself had called for. When she was in the opposition as a member of the third party, she used to call repeatedly for the government to sanction Igor Sechin and Vladimir Yakunin and still they are not sanctioned. The minister will have to explain that one herself," he said.

Edmonton Strathcona NDP MP also raised this issue stating: "Disappointingly, the previous Conservative government gave short shrift to the imposition of sanctions. My colleagues in this place have continued to push to extend the sanctions so they are on par with the sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the EU, particularly Igor Sechin and Vladimir Yakunin, and to get rid of the various existing loopholes that allow Canadians to work with these discreditable entities in Russia, which help to foment and support this war."

She later asked Conservative Foreign Affairs Critic Peter Kent whether he was willing "to break with the position of his own party when it was in government, a position that I understand is continuing."

"There are many corrupt officials involved directly with Putin against whom it would not issue sanctions, including Sechin and Yakunin. There are still Canadian companies that are doing business with these characters. Is the member willing to step forth and say that it is time that we expanded the sanctions against all people who are aligned with Putin?"

Kent replied: "I thank my hon. colleague for a very reasonable question. In fact it is true, and had I had more time I would have mentioned that the mistakes of one government with regard to names left off the list of sanctioned individuals should not be used as an excuse by the current government to continue to keep those names off the list. Igor Sechin is a prime example. As the brutal left-hand man of Vladimir Putin and the head of Russia's oil company, he has in fact, just in the last couple of months, managed to sell 20% of that company, despite U.S. and other sanctions, through a very dark series of negotiated deals. That is exactly why I would suggest that the names of Vladimir Yakunin and Igor Sechin be considered by the government today to be added to the list of those sanctioned Russian individuals.

Freeland did not reply in the House and her office did not give a direct reply to questions emailed by Ukrainian News regarding this issue.

In her opening remarks during the House debate she stated: "We will continue to pressure Russia, including through the current sanctions, to fully implement the commitments it made under the Minsk agreements and use its influence on the separatists to meet its obligations.

"The ultimate goal of our support is to promote the security, stability, and prosperity of Ukraine.

"We will continue to build on the solid foundation that we have established with Ukraine and we will continue to engage in a rich and mutually beneficial partnership based on common values and a commitment to regional and international security."

Sajjan said: "We will continue to train Ukrainian soldiers on explosive ordnance and improvised explosive device disposal. We will continue to teach force and basic investigative techniques as part of military police training. We will continue to provide casualty evacuation and combat first aid training as well as ongoing logistics system modernization.

"We will also support strategic institutional reform of Ukraine's defence establishment. Our goal is to enhance peace support operations, interoperability, military capacity building, and professional development."

Randall Garrison (Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke, NDP) said that in addition to Canada's military involvement "there is an important role for us to play in supporting Ukraine's democratic development. In the former soviet state, if we are to have long-term stability, Canada needs to be a partner in supporting Ukraine's civil society organizations, in helping to build good governance and economic stability, as well as in providing the military training support and non-lethal military aid that we are providing."

Duncan added her voice to the need for promoting civil society, suggesting that the government provide funding for the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) under which interns from Ukraine serve in Canada's parliament and give a lot more support through CIDA to civil society.

"Would it not be wonderful if the government of the day stepped up and said that it would put the funds in to return Ukrainian interns to the country. That would be one specific thing that could be done that our friendship association would really appreciate. I cannot understate the value of that exercise. I had up to six interns that came to work with me in my office. They have all gone back and are contributing, working hand in glove with the government," she said.

Conservative Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles) called upon the govern-

Cont. on P. 9

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Conservatives call for lethal weapons for Ukraine

Cont. from P. 8

ment to sign a defence co-operation agreement with Ukraine, as the United Kingdom did.

"Considering the situation, we must help our ally, Ukraine, and ensure it has the means to fight foreign aggression. If aggression is on the rise, as it is now, our support must increase accordingly. We should regard an attack on the sovereignty of one of our allies as an attack on Canadian sovereignty.

"With this in mind, and this is the goal of tonight's debate, we call on the Liberals to do the following: first, immediately restore the practice of sharing intelligence gathered using our RadarSat satellite with Ukrainian authorities; second, add Ukraine to the automatic firearms country control list and supply Ukrainian military forces with lethal defensive equipment; third, sign and implement the Canada-Ukraine defence co-operation agreement; fourth, increase the number of OSCE monitors to report on violations of the Minsk agreement; fifth, provide additional humanitarian assistance to support the 1.6 million internally displaced people in Ukraine, urge Russia to respect Ukraine's sovereign territory and abide by all aspects of the Minsk agreement; and lastly, strengthen sanctions to hold corrupt foreign officials to account by implementing our Magnitsky legislation," he said.

Etobicoke-Centre Liberal Borys Wrzesnewskyj noted that Russian dictator Vladimir Putin is waging a "hybrid global war against liberal democratic values and governments,"

"Russian hydrocarbon billions corrupts political and corporate elites in the west, such as former German Chancellor Schröder and former U.S. security chief Michael Flynn. Far right nativist parties and movements are financed, such as Le Pen's National Front, political elections are sabotaged, the U.S. presidential election is hacked, and there is Montenegro's attempted coup d'état.

"However, in this amorphous borderless global hybrid war, there is a hard military front line. It stretches from the Baltic to the Black Sea. With our U.S., British, and German allies, we have placed soldiers on Russia's borders with the Baltic states and Poland. In the Black Sea, we have placed a frigate and deployed air force personnel to train with Romania's air force. On this hard military front line, there is an active regional war in Donbas. There the Kremlin is testing the resolve of the democratic west. Will the west sacrifice Ukraine in the hope of satisfying Russian revanchist neo-imperialism in the manner that Czechoslovakia was sacrificed by the west after the invasion of Sudetenland?," he added.

Kildonan—St. Paul Liberal MaryAnn Mihychuk said Canada is building both military and economic and cultural connections with Ukraine.

"Today, we are talking about that military stand with the renewal of Operation Unifier. Very significantly on the other front is the fact that we have signed the Canada-Ukraine free trade agreement. It represents an important milestone in the Canada-Ukraine relationship and will bring greater prosperity, economic security, and economic independence to the Ukrainian people," she said.

Garnett Genuis (Sherwood Park—Fort Saskatchewan, CPC) noted that Canada has an "important, role in global affairs: as a nation with membership in the vast majority of important multilateral organizations; as a nation without major border conflicts, without a colonial history beyond our borders, and without the baggage that comes with present or past superpower status; and as a nation that has made and is making a good faith effort in building a diverse yet unified society through tolerance, freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and genuine reconciliation. As a nation with these characteristics, we are uniquely placed to be the conscience of the international community and to use our relationships and our history to challenge the rest of the world to follow the path we have chosen."

Kerry Diotte (Edmonton Griesbach, CPC) addressed the plight of Crimean Tatars.

"Canada is deeply troubled by the politically motivated application of 'anti-terrorist' and 'anti-extremist' legislation; ongoing harassment of human rights activists, journalists and lawyers; arbitrary detentions; disappearances; and the persecution of Crimean Tatars and other minorities. We denounce the banning of the Mejlis, the self-governing body of the Crimean Tatars, and have called on Russia to reverse this illegal and immoral decision," he said

"My private member's bill and the debate around it called attention to all of these issues. I was pleased to have earned the support of all of my opposition colleagues, but the majority of Liberals voted against it. Some went so far as to claim that the deportation of Tatars did not constitute a genocide. That is an absurd claim supported only by the Putin regime's biggest apologists, including Canada's former parliamentary secretary to the minister of foreign affairs.

"The bare minimum is not enough. Ukrainians are still fighting the battle that began on the Maidan in Kiev, expanded to Crimea and then to Donbass. In the past three years Ukrainians have proven themselves to be some of the fiercest defenders of the values all of us say we support. They are fighting for their lives, their families, their hometowns, their liberty. They want to be living in a free country that respects the fundamental human rights of every man and woman. As a friend and ally, Canada has a moral duty to stand with them in their fight. Ukraine should always be able to depend on us.

Parkdale-High Park Liberal and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism noted that Canada's support of Ukraine is interwoven with the rich Ukrainian heritage in this country.

"In my role as the parliamentary secretary for multiculturalism, I am keenly aware of the rich contributions that Ukrainians have made to Canada's history and its development. The first members of the Ukrainian diaspora to settle in Ontario and western Canada came to this country 126 years ago. In that period, Ukrainian traditions have become Canadian traditions, such as wearing a vyshyvanka at the Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival in my riding. I was also honoured to have the ability to congratulate the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on the launch of its Canada 150th program entitled youth engaging youth, which is funded by our government. This project will celebrate diversity and promote that shared heritage through youth engagement between, among others, Ukrainian Canadian youth and young people who are indigenous."

Daniel Blaikie (Elmwood—Transcona, NDP) noted that meaningful resistance to Russia's actions within Ukraine must be a truly multilateral effort.

"Russia needs to hear that the rest of the world is united in standing up to countries that would take advantage of their neighbours and fail to respect the territorial integrity of their neighbours and think that simply because they have the larger army, they can get away with doing whatever they want," he said.

James Maloney (Etobicoke—Lakeshore, Lib.) noted that "the Canadian Forces' primary focus is on tactical soldier training, also known as small team training, which consists of individual weapons training, marksmanship, tactical movement, explosive threat recognition, communication, survival in combat, and ethics training.

"Furthermore, the CAF is partnered with Ukraine in the military training and co-operation program, an ongoing engagement that will continue to offer a series of opportunities to enhance peace support operations, interoperability, military capacity building, and professional development," he added.

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PEN America honors Sentsov

(RFE/RL)—PEN America has announced that it will honor imprisoned Ukrainian writer and filmmaker Oleh Sentsov with its 2017 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award.

Sentsov, a native of Crimea who opposed Russia's March 2014 annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula, is currently serving a 20-year prison term in a maximum-security facility on terrorism charges that he and international rights groups call politically motivated.

Jailed Ukrainian film director Oleh Sentsov (file photo)

The charges against Sentsov "have been condemned by human rights groups as fabrications by a Russian government intent on silencing dissent," PEN America said in a statement on March 29.

Sentsov was arrested in May 2014 on suspicion of planning the firebombings of pro-Russian organizations in Crimea. A Russian court convicted him on multiple terrorism charges in August of the same year.

Sentsov has denied all charges against him, saying that a "trial by occupiers cannot be fair by definition."

PEN America said Sentsov is widely regarded for work that includes two short films, A Perfect Day For Bananafish and The Horn Of A Bull, and a full-length feature film, Gamer, which debuted to acclaim at the 2012 International Film Festival in Rotterdam.

His writings include scripts, plays, and essays, and he has continued to produce prolifically from prison, the statement said.

Since 1987, PEN America has honored more than 50 writers worldwide with the Freedom to Write Award.

"The PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award is a reminder of the heavy price that writers pay to speak out in societies where free expression is not respected," said Peter Barbey, owner of the Village Voice and director of the Edwin Barbey Charitable Fund, which sponsors the award.

In January, several high-profile members of the Russian PEN chapter, including Nobel Prize laureate Svetlana Alexievich, novelist Grigory Chkhartishvili (who writes under the name Boris Akunin), and poet Lev Rubinshtein quit the organization over its failure to speak out in defense of Sentsov.

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FBI did wiretap Trump Tower

Russian crime organization was actual target

By Mirren Gidda, *Newsweek*

The FBI has said it did wiretap Trump Tower, though its target was not the building's owner. From 2011 to 2013, two years before Trump announced his presidential campaign, the bureau spied on a Russian crime organization operating on the tower's 63rd floor.

The FBI had a court-approved warrant to monitor mafia members running what prosecutors described as an "international money-laundering, sports gambling and extortion ring," ABC News reported.

One of the mafia ring's most senior figures, Vadim Trincher who, oversaw the laundering of tens of millions of dollars from the former Soviet Union through Cyprus and into the U.S, among other criminal activities, Haaretz reported.

The FBI's findings led to a federal grand jury indicting more than 30 people in April 2013. Among the group was a Russian mafia boss named Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov, who the U.S. attempted to extradite in 2002. That year, Italian officials arrested Tokhtakhounov over charges that he bribed judges during the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics. Italy refused the extradition request and Tokhtakhounov returned to Moscow.

Seven months after the 2013 indictment, and with an Interpol red notice—which seeks the arrest of wanted people—pending against him, Tokhtakhounov was seen on November 9 in the VIP section of the Miss Universe competition in Moscow. Also present was Trump, owner of the pageant, who had tweeted a few months earlier:

It is unknown whether Trump actually met Tokhtakhounov.

Trump's administration has made a series of accusations that Barack Obama ordered surveillance on the president during his election campaign, without any evidence.

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Munitions depot explodes over Kharkiv

Thousands evacuated as Ukraine blames munitions blast on Russia

(RFE/RL)—A munitions depot near the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv caught fire and was rocked by a series of explosions in a huge conflagration that authorities blamed on "sabotage," prompting the evacuation of thousands of people living nearby.

President Petro Poroshenko on March 23 pointed the finger at Russia, saying it was "no accident" that they occurred on the day that a former Russian lawmaker who has criticized Russia's government was shot dead in Kyiv.

The fires broke out overnight at the depot on an army base in Balakliya, near Kharkiv and around 100 kilometers from the front line in the conflict between government forces and Russia-backed separatists further southeast.

As of the evening of March 23, about 20,000 residents living within a 20-kilometer radius of the depot had been evacuated, officials said.

Prime Minister Volodymyr Hroysman told reporters in the Kharkiv region that one woman was seriously injured in the explosions and that "the territory is still very dangerous."

"We can evaluate everything as the intensity of the fire decreases," he said in televised comments. "This can take up to one week."

He said 550 emergency workers, medical officers, and police had been sent to the site to aid recovery efforts.

The depot, which stores 138,000 tons of ammunition including artillery shells and missiles, is used to supply Ukrainian forces fighting against the separatists.

Chief military prosecutor Anatoliy Matios wrote on Facebook that investigators on the scene believed the fire and subsequent explosions were the "result of sabotage."

Officials said some 20,000 residents in the area were being evacuated.

Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said that one-third of the 368-hectare depot was on fire, adding that the situation might get worse if the fire reaches underground storage areas, where long-range cannon shells are being kept.

Poltorak also said that aircraft were barred from a 50-kilometer zone around Balaklia as the blasts were scattering shells as far as 2 kilometers from the site.

Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) said that it had launched an investigation on suspicion of "sabotage."

Poroshenko also called it sabotage and said it was "no accident" that the munitions depot fire and the killing of former Russian lawmaker Denis Voronenkov, who moved to Ukraine last year, occurred on the same day.

In a statement posted on Twitter and Facebook, Poroshenko said that Voronenkov's killing was a "act of state terrorism" by Russia.

He issued the statement after meeting with senior security officials to discuss the situation in Balaklia and the Voronenkov killing.

Ammunition depot fires occur frequently in the former Soviet Union.

Poltorak also said the blasts could have been set off deliberately, and that the same depot had been set on fire by saboteurs using drones in 2015.

The war between government forces and Russia-backed separatists who control parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, both of which border the Kharkiv region, has killed more than 9,900 people since April 2014.

It continues despite a February 2015 agreement on a cease-fire and steps to end the conflict.

Poltorak said that security had been tightened around all military depots across the country.

Regional natural-gas supplier Kharkivgaz suspended gas delivery to Balaklia to avoid further explosions, and all rail service near the area was suspended.

Members of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine take pictures of a destroyed house in Avdiyivka after heavy shelling by pro-Russia separatists

OSCE prolongs mission in Ukraine by one year

(RFE/RL)—The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on March 16 prolonged its monitoring mission in Ukraine by one year — until March 2018.

Three years after Moscow illegally annexed the Crimean region, tensions between Ukraine and Russia-backed separatists are still high and a 2015 cease-fire agreement is violated regularly.

Fighting has claimed the lives of at least 20 civilians since the start of the year and wounded almost 100 more, according to the United Nations. In recent weeks, the observers have reported a deteriorating security situation in eastern Ukraine and an increase in the number of cease-fire violations.

The unarmed, civilian OSCE mission, with more than 700 international observers, seeks to reduce tensions and report on the situation on the ground. The 57 member states of the OSCE, which include Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, decided by consensus to extend the mandate of the mission until March 31, 2018, the OSCE said.

The mission was first deployed in 2014 and this was its third extension. It will have a budget of 105.5 million euros for the year, enabling the staff to upgrade monitoring equipment.

May your Easter be full of Joy,
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HOTO — MML INC.

Dr. Artem Luhovy UNF-Montreal president (front row right), and Taras Pidzamecky National UNF president (front row centre), with members of the 2017-18 executive.

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Христос Воскресе!

Dr. Artem Luhovy re-elected UNF-Montreal president

(UNF-Montreal)— Dr. Artem Luhovy was re-elected for a third term as UNF-Montreal president at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held March 26, 2017.

Attending the Montreal AGM was UNF National president, Taras Pidzamecky, who chaired the proceedings. The AGM secretary was Borys Bilaniuk.

The AGM was officially opened by president Dr. Luhovy who welcomed all members and guests and gave a PowerPoint report, with photos, outlining the past year's work coordinated by him and his executive. Some of the activities Dr. Luhovy included were the annual networking UNF wine and cheese, supporting the work of McGill Ukrainian Students' Association, supporting UCC-Montreal events, and the continued meetings and projects of the "YHO-literaturne studio" (literary circle), chaired by Rostyslav Neymtsev now in its second year providing a regular forum to discuss Ukrainian literature.

The president thanked his hard working executive, including Evhen Struminsky and Orysia Korol for managing the hall. Other reports given, including a financial report presented by treasurer Adrian Kowryha. The secretary's report presented by Andrij Hovorun, a report from the nine-member Donations Committee headed by and presented by Katrusia Smolynec, the UCC-Montreal delegates' report presented by Smolynec on behalf of Petro Zelenko who was visiting family in Australia, and a report by the five-member Archives Committee headed by Yurij Luhovy and presented by Petro Duszara. In the archive report it was pointed out that many of the photos in the UNF branch collection dating back to 1934 can no longer be located, and efforts are being made to find them in private collections.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Luhovy thanked Pidzamecky and everyone present, looking forward to work with his team in continuing to revive and strengthen the Montreal branch. "We will continue to expand and build on our programs for the benefit of the branch and our community."

The executive elected for 2017-18 includes Dr. Artem Luhovy, president, Evhen Osidacz, Adrian Kowryha, Volodymyr Zelenko, Andrij Hovorun, Anastasia Kyva, Rostyslav Nemtsev, and Katrusia Smolynec. Several working committees formed last year will continue their good work.

Pidzamecky in his concluding remarks emphasized the need to work together for the good of the community. He touched on several matters, including underscoring the significance to safeguard UNF and community archives. This is an important, historical record illustrating the development of UNF, one of the oldest organizations, and the development of the Ukrainian Canadian community overall. UNF archives also demonstrate how crucial UNF was in the development of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). He cited interesting examples. In his visit to the UNF-Sudbury branch, which was one of the strongest and most active branches in Canada, he saw in the Sudbury collection archives pertaining to the UCC-Sudbury branch from the 1940's. The tight relationship between UNF and UCC is not surprising since UNF was one the five original founding organizations that established UCC. He pointed out that currently, several UNF members, including Slavko Borys and Renata Roman, have prominent positions on UCC National executive. Regarding early history of Montreal, he saw a photo, presently at UNF-Toronto, which was also found in the archives of UNF-Sudbury dating from the 1930's depicting the early beginnings of UNF-Montreal with over 200 people at a "Strilet'ska Hromada" event in Montreal. Fortunately, this photo was saved.

In his comments, Pidzamecky pointed out that UNF National is finalizing its work on the new UNF Policies and Procedures bi-laws providing guidelines for each branch in its work.

After the adjournment of the AGM meeting by Bilaniuk, conversations continued on many topics between the over 50 members and guests present. A revival of UNF-Montreal branch continues with many young professionals joining the branch.

Христос Воскрес!
Christ is Risen!
"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let the whole world, both visible and invisible, keep festival: For Christ is risen, our eternal joy."
— from the Canon of Pascha
The Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation wish you much happiness during this joyous time. May the miracle of this Easter season bless your heart, your home and those you love!
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PHOTO — VOLODYMYR BANDURA

Filming "Genocide Revealed" in Kharkiv Oblast' directed by Yurij Luhovy (centre) with Adriana Luhova (cameraperson).

Documentary Genocide Revealed launches new web site

(MML)—A new web site (www.genocideredealedmovie.com) has been launched highlighting the availability of the English, Ukrainian, French and English-Educational versions of the multi award-winning feature documentary film "Genocide Revealed".

The first historical drama "Bitter Harvest", written by Richard Bachynsky-Hoover and George Mendeluk, has brought international awareness to the little known 1932-33 famine genocide in Soviet Ukraine. With this movie's release, many people are asking where they can find more detailed information about this genocide.

The documentary (75mins) "Genocide Revealed" by Canadian filmmaker Yurij Luhovy, exposes Moscow's policy of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. The film focuses on the man-made famine in Soviet Ukraine engineered by Stalin's regime and the accompanied decimation of the national elite and destruction of Ukraine's historical past. "Genocide Revealed" is based on testimonies of survivors, commentaries by historians, declassified Soviet archival documents and rare historical footage. It reveals one of the greatest human tragedies of the 20th century. Millions perished

The film crew travelled over 3500 km to reach survivors in remote areas of the original famine-struck areas of eastern Ukraine. Today, most of those areas are reduced to ruble with the ongoing war.

"Genocide Revealed" won 12 international awards, including "Best Historical Film" and "Best documentary". The documentary received many comments from historians and specialists in Holodomor studies referring to the film as "the best documentary made on the Famine-genocide (Holodomor)" (Prof. Roman Serbyn), "excellent documentary" (Prof. Taras Hunczak).

The feature documentary is available in the original Ukrainian language version titled "Okradena Zemlya", narrated by Bohdan Beniuk, in the French language version titled "Génocide d'une Nation", narrated by internationally renowned Quebec actress Geneviève Bujold, and the English language version narrated by Canadian Oscar-nominated actor Graham Greene.

An Educational English-language version which has both a 26min. and 52min. shortened version on one dvd, is available. Teachers are using it in Canadian provinces that have Holodomor study and 20th century genocides included in their Department of Education's curriculum. The U.S. Holodomor Educational Committee called "Genocide Revealed", "an excellent educational resource film" and the UCC National Holodomor Awareness Committee describes it as "highly recommended as a teaching resource".

A Ukrainian-language Educational version for teachers will be soon released. The feature length film "Okradena Zemlya", which is endorsed by the Ukrainian World Congress, was recently premiered in Kyiv to a standing ovation at "Ukrajins'kyj Dim". Speaking at the Kyiv premiere on November 2016, Kyiv historian Prof. Volodymyr Serhijchuk emphasized the need to complete the Ukrainian-language Educational version for schools.

The documentaries were made possible with the support of community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Shevchenko Foundation.

To access the new web site and more information about the documentaries go to: www.genocideredealedmovie.com

UCPBA
Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Association of Calgary

Easter is a time of hope, forgiveness and redemption. As we celebrate this most important day in the Christian calendar, our thoughts turn to Ukraine and the suffering of her people. May this year bring peace to our ancestral homeland and may Ukraine and her brave sons and daughters at long last prevail in their struggle against Russian aggression.

Христос Воскрес! – Christ is Risen!

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! CHRIST IS RISEN!
ВОЇСТИНУ ВОСКРЕС! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!
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WISHING ALL READERS A MOST BLESSED VELYKDEN - EASTER!
The Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies exists to *create, preserve* and *communicate* knowledge relating to Ukrainian Canadiana through university teaching, research and community outreach.
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Five dead after copter crash

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's Defense Ministry said a military helicopter has crashed in the eastern Donbas region, killing 5 people aboard.

The ministry said the crash happened March 26 near Kramatorsk, the headquarters of the military operation against Russia-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country.

Two crew members and three passengers died when the Mi-2 copter crashed after apparently flying into some power lines, the ministry said.

Ukrainian government forces have battled separatists in the east for nearly three years, in a war that has killed more than 9,900 people and displaced hundreds of thousands.

"Bitter Harvest", a Ukrainian tragedy

By Iuliia Zubrytska, LLM (Master of Laws

A 5-year old child putting his ear to the ground on the grave of his skinny mother (buried without a coffin, merely covered in soil) stood strong not to show a tear. He probably showed off his resilience to his two younger sisters who were hardly able to walk, as their father buried his wife by himself, as the village got deserted as people starved to death... All of this was unveiling in the breadbasket of Europe, Ukraine – a country with the richest soil.

This heartbreaking scene from "Bitter Harvest" movie has been keeping me awake several nights now, as my own family has been marked by similar horrors in 1932-1933 in Ukraine. I am just starting to recover from the death of my dearest grandmother Hanna who passed away this past winter, and joined her brother Fedir who luckily survived the genocide of Holodomor in Poltava oblast', Ukraine. They were never privileged enough to grow with their youngest sister Natalka who perished during those sadistic times.

I wish my grandmother Hanna was still alive… If only we could have at least one conversation about her favourite food, the house she was born in, and the bread they used to bake in the outdoor oven on summer days. I feel desperate not being ever able to ask her more about her life as a miner in prairies of Donetsk, and a romantic twist in her life that would bring her to the mountain town of Drohobych where I would be born years later.

George Mendeluk's genius brings the memories of my grandmother's family back to life – one of 10 million of innocent Ukrainian lives taken away in 1932-1933. Traditional Ukrainian farmers have remained a primary target of Russian and Soviet genocidal policies for several centuries now. Mr. Mendeluk's single movie graphically shows flagrant attack on Ukrainian Christian values. Many of us forget how "underground" the church was under the Soviets. Moreover, every Soviet officer who was physically abusing the priests in the movie – was a Russian speaker. Thus, over 130 official bans of Ukrainian language in the Russian empire have come up before my eyes. And this is a fact.

A Polish Jewish jurist Raphael Lemkin defined genocide, given his supreme legal training and outstanding feeling of compassion to people suffering from such a severe form of atrocities. Shortly thereafter United Nations supported his brilliant idea and included it into the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Every line in "Bitter Harvest" movie speaks to this universal law.

First, the period immediately before and during 1932-1933 was what Jerzy Giedroyc called "executed renaissance" ("rozstrilyane vidrodzhennya") – which stands for extermination of cultural flowering of Ukrainian writers and writers. George Mendeluk excellently introduces an astonishing image of Yuri's best friend, Mykola – a charismatic and educated Ukrainian leader who shot himself. Mykola's image directly mirrors the life of Ukraine's first expressionist writer Mykola Khvylovy who committed suicide in the spring of 1933 in the presence of his friends, in protest to mass arrests of Ukrainian intelligentsia. Mykola was not able to bear the pressure from his teachers to find artistic inspiration from Russian sources, and not being able to freely and critically examine examples of Western artists of the time. Stalin exterminated tens of thousands of young, genuine talented people like Mykola. These actions reflect the first element of genocide – "causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group – Ukrainians". (Ed. Note: The character of Mykola can also be interpreted as reflective of Mykola Skrypnyk, a nationalistic Ukrainian Bolshevik, who spearheaded the 1920s policy of Ukrainization. He committed suicide in the Summer of 1933 rather than face a show trial where he would be forced to recant his policies.)

Second, the viewers of "Bitter Harvest" can see as another element of genocide – forcibly transferring children of one group to another group – takes place, as Max Irons and Samantha Barks acquire someone's else child.

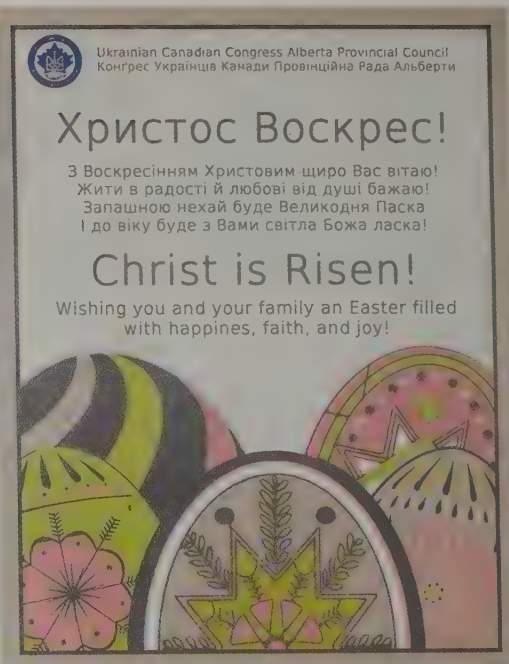
Third, and most notably graphic scenes of violence by Bolsheviks speak to killing members of the group in a deliberate targeted manner. Thousands of resilient Ukrainian farmers have been revolting against the collectivization and attack on their private property and civil rights. As many as five thousand protests took place all over Ukraine in 1932-1933 as an attempt to voice discontent with selective and unjust deprivation of means to life.

Lest we forget that the genocide continues as we speak! Over 1,5 million people have found themselves internally displaced in the recent years of Russian war against Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk regions which started in 2014. Most importantly, Russia is daily intentionally exterminating and wounding prospects of lives for tens of thousands of Ukraine's fittest and most resilient men, women, and children.

Finally, I find it particularly inspiring that the movie instills hope and candid belief that Ukrainians can keep giving more unique thinkers and simply hard working people of good will to this world. It would be so much better, if the bitter times remained in Ukraine's past!

Left to right: Iuliia Zubrytska, LLM; George Mendeluk, director of the "Bitter Harvest" movie; Dr. Markian Shulakewych at the Ottawa premiere of "Bitter Harvest".

Samantha Banks and Max Irons in a scene from "Bitter Harvest"



MacEwan UNIVERSITY | UKRAINIAN RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!

The Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC) at MacEwan University wishes a Happy Easter to all. We would like to pass a special thank-you to our numerous friends, colleagues, and supporters in Canada and Ukraine, who contribute to successful implementation of our mandate. Thanks to your generous support, we are able to pursue a range of academic and cultural outreach initiatives that link our two countries closer together.

Yuri Konkin
Director Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre
MacEwan University
Room 7-257 N, City Centre Campus,
PO Box 1796, Edmonton AB T5J 2P2

http://MacEwan.ca/URDC
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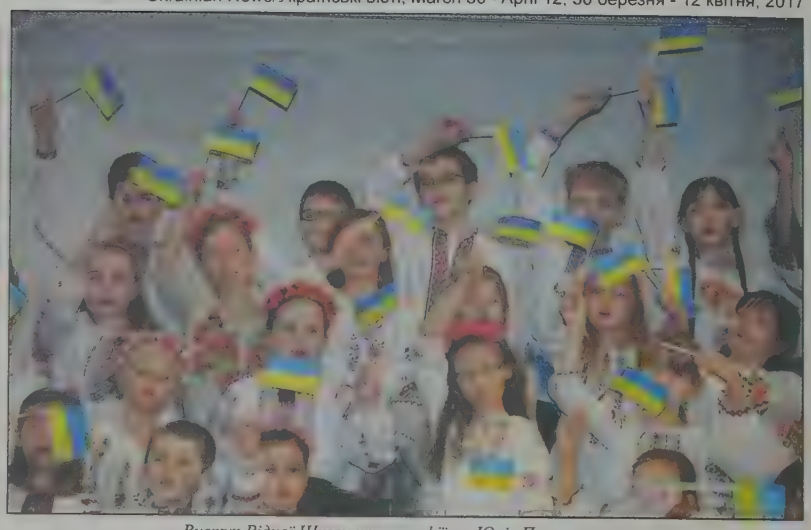

Виступ Рідної Школи при парафії св. Юрія Переможця

Едмонтон вшанував Шевченка

Галина Котович, *член УМТА*

Традиційний річний Шевченківський концерт в Едмонтоні відбувся 12 березня 2017 року в приміщенні Дому української молоді. Під патронатом едмонтонського відділу Конгресу Українців Канади, Українське Музичне Товариство Альберти вже 23-ий рік займається програмою концерту. Тому, що УМТА цього року відзначує 45 ліття свого існування, програма підкреслювала музику – безмежну любов Шевченка до української народної пісні, його глибоке знання европейської класичної музики й величавий вплив "Кобзаря" на професійний розвиток української музики. Ведуча була Лариса Бумбак, а текст ведучої приготовила Галина Котович.

Концерт почався "Заповітом" (обр. Л. Ященка), хор Верховина при Спілці української молоді (СУМ) Едмонтон, диригент: Орест Солтикевич, і вступним словом Лілії Сухої, представник едмонтонського відділу Конгресу. Тоді хор заспівав ще дві пісні: "Сонце заходить, гори чорніють" (муз. Д. Роздольського) і "Ой маю, маю я оченята" (муз. Д. Бойченка).

Шевченко мав гарний голос і зворушував слухачів своїм співом. Найбільше до вподоби йому були побутові, історичні й жартивливі пісні. Маркіян Ґовда (фортепіяновий суспровід: Роман Солтикевич) прекрасно відспівав три народні пісні: "Зіронька (улюблена пісня Шевченка)"; "Ой Морозе, Морозенку"і "Під гаєм зелененьким".

Рідна Школа при парафії св. Юрія Переможця, директор: Оля Миц, фортпіяновий супровід: Лілея Волянська, диригент: Анна Крупа, представила (музично-літературну композицію), "Зацвіла в долині". Пізніше Соломія Миц рецитувала поему "Думка".

Інструментальні твори виконав концертовий ансамбль "Чайка", диригент Людвик Мар'янич: "У туркені по тім боці (з поеми 'Гамалія')" (муз. М. Лисенка), "По діброві вітер віє ('Тополя')" (обр. В. Уманця), "Тече вода зпід явора" (муз. О. Гайворонського). Усе оркестрування Л. Мар'янича.

Про Шевченка як знавця европейської класичної музики здобутої головно у Петербурзі читала ведуча. На тлі, "Лакрімоса" із "Реквієм" Моцарта, присутні довідались, між іншим, що музичні вподобання Шевченка знаємо з його листів, щоденників і повістей написаних на засланні у Новопетровському укріпленні. А сполукою віолончелі з фортепіяном Шевченко вважав "божественною гармонією".

Дівочий ансамбль "Рута" при Організації Українок Канади ім. Ольги Басараб, музичний керівник: Дмитро Руснак, художний керівник: Алла Семенко, заспівав "Нащо мені чорні брови" (муз. народна) і "Із-за гори кам'яної (із запису Шевченка)" (муз. М. Леонтовича). Ще за життя Шевченка у народі почали створювати мелодії на його слова, бо для селян ці вірші були близькі, зрозумілі і надаються до співу. Наприклад, мелодія до вірша "Нащо мені чорні брови" створена у селі Мерефі на Харківщині, але композитор нам незнаний. Усі ці мелодії з Шевченковими текстами співали не тільки в цих селах, де їх записано, але й в зовсім протилежних кінцях краю.

Вдруге виступив ансамбль "Чайка": "Бандуристе, орле сизий" (обр. Я. Орлова/С. Ковальчина), на бандурі: Чарлі Сакума, "Тралала, тралала, на базарі була ('Назар Стодоля')" (муз. В. Заремби) і "Якби мені черевики" (обр. Є. Козака/З. Марковича).

Писав Шевченко, що раз здобув в Петербурзі волю, він неначе переродився, ожила в нього пам'ять про рідний край, мова й пісня України. Українські народні пісні залишили свій слід на поетичній мові поета і на змісті і формі його віршів. Піснею заспокоював свою душу від дитинства до кінця життя.

Слідкувала коротка згадка про Миколу Лисенка, бо він був в українській музиці тим, чим Шевченко був у слові і поезії. Цього року відзначуємо 175 років з дати його народження. "Пісню без слів мі мінор, тв.10, No. 1" (муз. М. Лисенка) з почуттям заграла піяністка Марічка Овчаренко. На кінець програми хор Дніпро, диригент: Ірина Шмігельська, при фортепіяні: Давид Фрейзер, виконав: "Доле моя, доле (з поеми 'Хустина')", солістки Оля Федеркевич, Ірина Тарнавська, "Сонце заходить" (муз. В. Іконника) і "А мій батько орандар" (муз. Ю. Мейтуса).

Значення Тараса Шевченка для розвитку української музики немає порівнянь з культурами інших народів. Майже вся поезія Шевченка стала, якщо не піснею, то джерелом для створення усіх жанрів музичної творчости. Думки і пророцтва Шевченка також дали українській музиці той потрібний розвій піднятися до професійного рівня, а музична "Шевченкіяна" що почав Микола Лисенко триває до сьогоднішнього дня.

Подяки виконавцям і публіці склала Люба Бойко-Белл, голова Українського Музичного Товариства Альберти. Спільний спів "Ще не вмерла" закінчив концерт.

Найщиріші вітання з нагоди найбільшого християнського свята — Воскресіння Христового! Нехай Ваші душі будуть багаті на добро, як святковий стіл, чисті як Великодний рушник, і веселі, як українські писанки. Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!

Wishing you all the joys and blessings of the Easter Season.

Ukrainian Dnipro Ensemble of Edmonton

Irena Szmihelsky, Artistic Director
Gloria Zaharia, Assistant Conductor
Susan Romaniuk, President
Irena Tarnawsky, Accompanist

Website: www.dniprochoir.com
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Blessings of the Easter season!

Христос Воскрес!

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PHOTOS — GORD YAKIMOW

The dance is done!

Preparations underway for 2017 BC Ukrainian festival

11 troupes to compete

By Gord Yakimow

The 22nd annual BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival will feature ten dance troupes from various regions of BC, and one from Washington State.

The dance performances will be held in the Clarke Theatre in Mission, part of the Heritage Park Educational Complex. The complex is located in the Fraser Valley, an hour east of Vancouver.

Along with the dance performances, all of which are adjudicated, there will be a number of vendors offering an array of Ukrainian arts and crafts. Musicians will be performing at various locations in the venue. And a kitchen featuring Ukrainian cuisine — perogies and holoptsi (cabbage rolls) and kovbasa — will be available for the attending public.

"The groups, dressed in colourful regional costumes, will put on dances associated with all the various regions of Ukraine," explained Gladys Andreas, the founder of the Festival. "The dances are often fast-paced. It's all very exciting … and at times quite moving."

Andreas has been recognized for her contribution to preserve, develop, and enhance Ukrainian culture in Canada by both the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and by the Government of Ukraine. She has legendary status within BC's Ukrainian community.

"Last year's Festival had 270 performers, ranging in age from the very young to young adults in their 30's," said Glenna Nychyporuk, the Festival's president. "This year we are once again expecting troupes from the Island, from the Interior, from the Lower Mainland, and from the USA."

The Festival will be held on May 6. The first performance kicks off at 9 AM. Opening Ceremony is at 10 AM. Things wrap up at approximately 6 PM. Admission is $8 for adults, $5 for students aged 7-18, and $1 for children 6 and under.

Info is available on the Festival website—<www.bcucf.ca>.

Subscribe to Ukrainian News
See Page 21

Easter Sunday Brunch
April 16, 2017

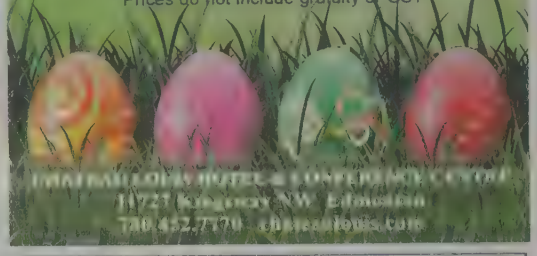
Grand Ballroom, Conference Centre
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Reservations: 780.453.6504

Royal Coach Dining Room
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Easter Sunday Ukrainian Dinner Buffet
5:00 - 8:30 pm
Reservations: 780.453.6508

Adults	$32.95
Seniors	$28.95
Children (10-12)	$18.95
Children (2-9)	$ 2.00/year

* Prices do not include gratuity or GST



22nd Annual
BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival

May 6th, 2017 from 9:00am - 6:30pm

Clarke Theatre: Located at the Heritage Park Secondary School
33700 Prentis Ave Mission, BC

star 107.1 COUNTRY

Admission: Adults & Seniors - $8.00
Youth (7-18 years) - $5.00
Children (6 and under) - $1.00

Inquiries please email: info@bcucf.ca
Website: www.bcucf.ca
Sponsored by the BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival Society
A non-profit organization

Українська Канадська Фундація ім. Тараса Шевченка
щиро вітає усіх жертводавців і прихильників
з Великодними Святами

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!

Бажають Рада Директорів:
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Ґордон Ґордей, Адріян Бойко, Ліда Нарожняк,
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Ми бачили

Паломники з Едмонтонської єпархії відвідали Святу землю

Надія Потеруха

«Ви – не туристи, ви – паломники»,- цими словами зустрів нашу групу гід. Чому так важливо розуміти різницю? Тому, що паломник це той, хто вирушає у дорогу до святих місць на поклоніння, шукаючи прощення гріхів і очищення у молитві. Пройти дорогою Христа, ступаги там, де ступали Його ноги, бачити те, що бачили Його очі, молитись там, де молився Він – найвище блаженство для кожної християнської душі.

Ми почали свій шлях по Святій землі із Галілеї. Тут пройшла більша частина земного служіння Христа, тут він покликав своїх апостолів. І саме тут, у каплиці Весільної церкви у Канні Галілейській, на місці, де Ісус сотворив своє перше чудо, ми склали обітницю на вірність Йому. Тут-таки усі пари нашої групи відновили свої подружні обітниці. Ця подія була для нас справжнім дивом! У піднесенні і зі сльозами радості на очах ми вирушили до Назарету, щоб відсвяткувати Службу Божу у церкві Благовіщення і відвідати дім Святої родини.

На світанку наступного дня, ми вирушили на гору Блаженства, до місця, у якому Ісус виголосив Нагірну проповідь, і нагодував п'ятьма хлібами п'ять тисяч народу. Тепер на цьому місці збудовано каплицю, на стінах якої записані Його слова. Божественна Літургія відбувалась просто неба. Ми молились і відчували, що Син Божий є тут, посеред нас.

Спустившись з гори, ми сіли у човен і відплили на середину Галілейського моря. Мотор затих, хвилі злегка погойдували човен, ми усі закрили очі і поринули у мовчання, прислухаючись до кроків Ісуса, що наближався до нас по воді. Сповнені відчуття чуда повернулись на берег, щоб знову зустріти Його на місці, де Він з'явився апостолу Петру, після свого воскресіння. Далі ми пішли за Ісусом у Капер Наум до будинку апостола Петра і слухали Його науки у синагозі.

Залишивши Галілею, ми вирушили до Вифлеєму, щоб вклонитись новонародженому Спасителю, принести Йому у дар наші молитви, і доторкнутися до святого місця, у якому Син Божий прийшов у цей світ, як дитя. Невимовним щастям сповнювалися наші серця, коли під час Божественної Літургії ми співали «Бог предвічний народився». У цей день ми чули привітання «Христос рождається» мало не всіма мовами світу. Далі ми вирушили у пустелю, щоб разом із Христом охреститись у Йордані від Івана і почути голос з неба «Це Син мій улюблений, якого я вподобав».

Останнім місцем нашого паломництва був Єрусалим, місто у якому звершились слова пророцтва. Залишилось ще зовсім небагато – останній тиждень земного життя нашого Спасителя. Кожен паломник має можливість прожити його разом з Ісусом і стати свідком його Божества. Ми піднялись на Оливну гору, щоб побачити весь Єрусалим. Були присутні при тайній вечері і молились разом з Господом у Гетсиманському саду. Відчували страх і розпуку, схиливши свої голови до каменя, на якому Христос молився останній раз. Разом з Ним ми мучились у підвалі тюрми, чекаючи на останню дорогу. Під покровом ночі ми йшли з Ним хресною дорогою, падали і піднімались, щоб дійти до кінця. Ми гірко плакали, стоячи навколішки під хрестом, на якому Його розіп'яли. І нарешті прийшли до гробу, щоб побачити його пустим і заспівати «Христос воскрес!» - «Воістину воскрес!»

Ми повернулися з Єрусалиму, щоб бути свідками для Христа. Ми повернулись, щоб сказати: «Ми бачили».

PS. Щира подяка отцеві Петру Бабею за організацію цього паломництва (13-22

ФОТО — МАРІЇ КРІЛЬ

Паломники з Едмонтонської єпархії на Галілейському морі

З Великим Днем Світлого Христового Воскресіння!

Щиро вітаємо голову Української Греко-Католицької Церкви, Блаженнішого Святослава, Високопреосвященного Митрополита Лаврентія, Синод Української Греко-Католицької Церкви, усе духовенство, чернецтво, боголюбних мирян, проводи і членство українських громадських організацій та установ, та ввесь український нарід.

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

On this occasion of the Feast of Christ's Resurrection, we pray that Christ bestow upon all of you His choicest graces to sanctify your souls, good health to continue your life's endeavours, and profound happiness as you celebrate in your parishes, communities and families.

Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton
and
Ukrainian Catholic Council of Edmonton (Centralia)
along with its constituent organizations

Gregory Warwa, Council President
Terry Stychyshyn, EECKC President
Joyce Chrunik-Rudiak, UCWLC President
Michael Buckler, UCY Leader
Orest Boychuk, UCBC President

PHOTO – MARCO LEVYTSKY

The Verkhovyna School of Ukrainian Dance performs at Yarmarok

1300 attend this year's Yarmarok

(UkrNews)—Approximately 1300 people attended this year's Yarmarok, organized by the Verkhovyna Song and Dance Ensemble and held at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton, March 18-19.

"Yarmarok is always such a great event for Verkhovyna to host. It really brings the whole community together to celebrate Ukrainian Culture," said Tetiana Hlus, chief coordinator of this year's biennial event.

"Thank you to all who attended! It is always a great success because of all the volunteers from the Verkhovyna Ensemble and CYM that allow this event to run smoothly throughout the weekend," she added.

The two-day Pre-Easter Bazaar raised between $9,000 and $10,000 for the group.

Among the features were non-stop Ukrainian dancing, a penny carnival, baked goods, a colouring contest, petting zoo, craft fair and trade show, door prizes and traditional Ukrainian food at Baba's Kitchen.

This year's performers included: the Verkhovyna School of Ukrainian Dance, MY Ukrainian Dance Academy, Thorhild Ukrainian Dancing Club, Volya School of Ukrainian Dance, Edmonton School of Ukrainian Dance, Ardrossan Yatran and Koperoush School of Ukrainian Dance.

Another highlight was a video presentation of Verkhovyna's "the Dream".

The Verkhovyna Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble is the cultural arm of the Edmonton branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada (CYM). A broad spectrum of the Ukrainian community is represented within the ensemble, from Ukrainians new to Canada to fourth generation Ukrainian Canadians.

The Ensemble is comprised of three groups, the Verkhovyna Choir, Dunai Dancers, and Verkhovyna Ensemble School of Ukrainian dance. It is the cultural arm of the Edmonton branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada (CYM). A broad spectrum of the Ukrainian community is represented within the ensemble, from Ukrainians new to Canada to fourth generation Ukrainian Canadians.

The Verkhovyna Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble's goal is to promote the Ukrainian culture and increase awareness of the Ukrainian heritage. Verkhovyna thrives on enabling their own members, audiences, and the community to build friendships, a sense of belonging and an extended family.

The Verkhovyna Choir and Dunai Dancers have toured together as an ensemble, as well as performed separately, for appreciative audiences in Canada, The United States of America, Brazil, Costa Rica and Eastern Europe.

The Artistic Staff includes Shawn Ostafie, Dunai Dancers Artistic Director and Orest Soltykevych, Verkhovyna Choir Conductor.

Ukraine's central bank revises down GDP outlook

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's central bank said on March 21 that a blockade of the part of the country controlled by Russia-backed separatists will hit the country's economy harder than previously expected.

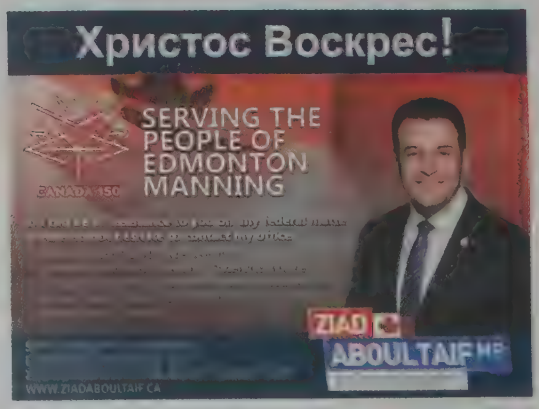
Just two days after the International Monetary Fund postponed a review of the disbursement of a new $1 billion loan to Ukraine pending further information on the effects of the blockade, the central bank said output will rise 1.9 percent in 2017, well below an earlier forecast of 2.8 percent growth.

On March 15, Kyiv announced the suspension of all cargo traffic with separatist-held areas of eastern Ukraine, essentially putting a blockade launched by activists in January under state control.

The blockade cuts off the supply of coal and steel that industrial enterprises were still purchasing from territory controlled by Russia-backed separatists whose 3-year-old war against government forces has killed more than 9,900 people.

In response to the blockade, the separatists have seized control of some businesses registered in Ukraine and demanded they pay "taxes" to them rather than the federal authorities.

The $1 billion loan was to be the next installment of a $17.5 billion IMF package, which has been hit by repeated delays over Kyiv's inconsistent record on reforms.



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І сонце, наче жовта паска, нам світить ясно із небес,
Лунає ніжним голосом гаївка, мов писанка, розквітла вся земля,
Як давню мрію першопоселенців, ми збережем усе для майбуття.
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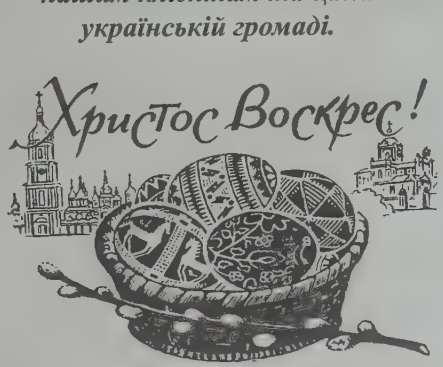
Організації Українського Державницького Фронту при Домі Української Молоді в Едмонтоні

Зі світлим празником Христового Воскресення бажаємо радости, щастя та кріпкого здоров'я всім нашим клієнтам та цілій українській громаді.


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П'ять віднайдених архівів Служби безпеки ОУН

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

П'ять архівів років підпілля Організації українських націоналістів близько 70 років пролежали в землі. Їх знайшли на Львівщині і Тернопільщині протягом останніх шести місяців. Віднайдені документи допоможуть науковцям відповісти на чимало запитань минулого століття. Архіви представлені у музеї «Тюрма на Лонцького» у Львові.

Архівні документи, а це друга половина 40-х – початок 50-х років, були заховані у бідони. Так зазвичай українські підпільники у них закопували у землю цінні матеріали. Останній бідон було знайдено кілька тижнів тому на Тернопільщині у Бережанському районі. Документи були заховані у корені дерева і довелось викорчувати пеньок. Про місця захоронення знали лише поодинокі особи.

Серед документів – листівки ОУН до української інтелігенції, а таких листівок понад 5 тисяч і всі вони у доброму стані. Підпільники, попри важкі умови життя та діяльності, реалізували різні ідеї у боротьбі з радянською пропагандою. У віднайдених архівах: фінансові звіти, протоколи допитів, трофейні документи – особисті документи чекістів, бофони – гроші оунівців та упівців, особисті речі оунівців, печатки, виготовлені у підпіллі для ознакування архіву ОУН, карикатурні малюнки Сталіна і радянської влади.

Особливо цінною є картотека ОУН, чого раніше науковці не знаходили. У ній перелік людей, яких оунівці у чомусь підозрювали, перевіряли. Важливими для дослідження є збережені опитування біженців зі Східної України, які від голоду 1946-47 років рятувались на Тернопільщині і розповідали оунівцям про колгоспи, життя за радянської влади.

«Документи потрапили до нас різними шляхами: це були випадкові знахідки людей, які принесли до нас ці архіви. Також і цілеспрямовано люди шукали. Минулого тижня ми привезли архів із Тернопільщини. Його передало управління СБУ, яке знайшло документи у когось під час своєї операції щодо незаконного тримання зброї. Вилучили архів і нам передали. Це дуже важливо, що працівники СБУ це знайшли і нам передали», – каже директор музею «Тюрма на Лонцького» Руслан Забілий. Знайдено понад 5 тисяч листівок до українців.

ФОТО — ГАЛИНИ ТЕРЕЩУК

Карикатура, знайдена в архіві документів ОУН, що були закопані у бідоні. На ній зображено Сталіна у вигляді чорта.

Архіви підпілля ОУН дозволять глибше дослідити український визвольний рух, зрозуміти і співставити чимало фактів із радянськими документами. Для прикладу, серед віднайденого архіву є унікальна знахідка – списки селян, депортованих із Рівненської області у період акції «Захід» у жовтні 1947 року. Цю акцію проводили МДБ і МВС УРСР. Вказівку про відправлення у віддалені регіони СРСР із західних областей родин оунівців дало МВС СРСР. Загалом із західних областей України тоді у досить короткий час виселили понад 26 тисяч родин, а це близько 78 тисяч чоловіків, жінок, дітей, останніх зокрема було депортовано понад 22 тисячі.

«Досі нам не були відомі документи, які збирались, узагальнювались у підпіллі. Ми такі документи знайшли і зможемо співставити джерела. Ми можемо детально дізнатись інформацію про чекістів, про їхню роботу і роль», – говорить Руслан Забілий.

Серед матеріалів є протокол допиту, а це окрема історія життя двох людей. Радянська агент із Тернопільщини Софія Гонз зізнається Службі безпеки ОУН, що вона видала радянським спецслужбам землячку – медсестру, зв'язкову УПА, на псевдо «Домовина», а це була Ванда Горчинська, яка досі живе на Тернопільщині. Батько Ванди Горчинської був поляком, якось під час сутички батько Софії Гонз, українець, захистив його. Донька поляка стала підпільницею ОУН, а дочка українця – Софія Гонз стала радянською сексоткою. Відтак Ванда Горчинська дізнається ім'я людини, яка її видала.

«З кожного архіву можна отримати окрему історію. Тут є цікаві документи, коли ОУН фіксувало дії злочинної радянської влади. В одному описано, як енкаведісвці вбили людей, які не мали жодного стосунку до підпілля ОУН, хату спалили, арештували глухо-німого чоловіка і його допитували. Що можна було питати у такої людини? Його били, катували, а потім вбили. Будемо ці документи співставляти з іншими джерелами», – наголосив керівник архіву Центру досліджень визвольного руху Андрій Усач.

Науковці зауважили, що вперше мають листівку, на якій Сталін зображений у вигляді «чорта».

Стан п'яти віднайдених архівів ОУН і УПА задовільний. За словами працівників музею, більшість документів, завдяки сучасним технологіям, вдасться реставрувати. Відтак вони відкриють нові сторінки складної історії українського визвольного руху середини XX століття.

В окупованому Криму затримали щонайменше 7 активістів – правозахисний портал

(Радіо Свобода)—В анексованому Сімферополі силовики затримали в суботу щонайменше сімох активістів, які планували вийти на пікети 26 березня. Про це повідомляє на своєму сайті російський правозахисний портал «ОВД-Инфо».

«У Сімферополі з кафе «Верона» забрали у відділення поліції, за попередніми даними, сім осіб. Про це на гарячу лінію «ОВД-Инфо» повідомив один з активістів», – йдеться в повідомленні.

За даними порталу з посиланням на активіста, затримані обговорювали наміри своєї участі в антикорупційному мітингу в неділю, проведення якого не схвалила окупаційна влада.

«Передбачали вийти з одиночними пікетами. Відомі імена лише двох – Олексій Єфремов і Дмитро Кісієв», – йдеться в повідомленні.

На сайті управління Слідчого комітету Росії по Криму підтвердження цієї інформації немає.

В підконтрольній Кремлю адміністрації Сімферополя раніше відмовили прихильникам російського політика Олексія Навального в проведенні ходи і мітингу в Сімферополі через «неукомплектованість» пакету документів.

Раніше в суботу Леонід Волков, голова передвиборного штабу Олексія Навального, повідомив, що Роскомнагляд надіслав йому листа, в якому зажадав, щоб він попередив читачів свого блогу про «незаконність» запланованих на 26 березня «заходів» на вулиці Тверській в Москві і про можливу відповідальність за участь в них.

На 26 березня у Москві та десятках російських міст заплановані антикорупційні акції опозиціонерів. За попередніми даними, російська влада узгодила лише 24 мітинги.

New evidence of secret payments to Manafort revealed

Ukraine lawmaker calls on U.S. to investigate

By Christopher Miller

(RFE/RL)—Paul Manafort is under scrutiny again after a Ukrainian lawmaker released documents he says show that U.S. President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman went to great lengths to hide $750,000 tied to his work for former President Viktor Yanukovych.

The documents, made public by lawmaker Serhiy Leshchenko at a press conference in Kyiv on March 21, include an invoice that bears the name of Manafort's Virginia-based consulting company, a blue seal, and what appears to be his signature.

Initially described in a report published by The New York Times on March 20, the document seems to show that $750,000 was laundered through an offshore account and disguised as payment for computers.

Leshchenko called on Ukrainian and U.S. law-enforcement agencies to investigate the payment.

"This is money stolen from Ukrainian citizens and has been paid to Manafort for [his work] with our former corrupt president," Leshchenko charged in a brief interview with RFE/RL on March 21, speaking in English. "This corruption must be exposed."

The authenticity of the invoice and other documents Leshchenko presented could not be confirmed.

He said he received the invoice, which billed a Belize-based company called Neocom Systems Limited $750,000 for the sale of 501 computers, in January from IT company employees who found it in a safe after they rented central Kyiv office space that had been vacated by Manafort in 2014.

Leshchenko said he released the documents only now because it took time to "verify" them. He said he did so by comparing Manafort's signature on his 1996 company registration documents with the signature on the invoice.

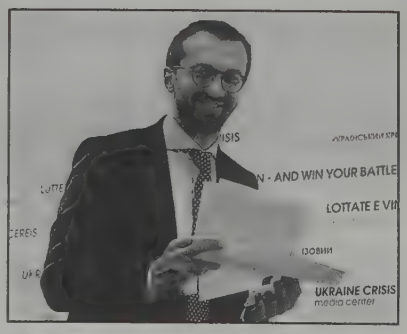
"It is an identical signature to the one on this contract," Leshchenko said.

Manafort has claimed Leshchenko tried to blackmail him via e-mail last summer when he came in possession of a secret "black ledger" kept by Yanukovych's Party of Regions showing entries worth $12.7 million from an alleged slush fund set aside for his services. Leshchenko denies the claim, saying that the threatening e-mail — which was made public by a murky hacker website — is a fake.

Leshchenko showed that the alleged $750,000 payment corresponds to one of 22 entries in the "black ledger."

Manafort did not respond to a text message from RFE/RL requesting comment, but he denied Leshchenko's latest allegations to The New York Times.

Leshchenko's news conference came hours after a March 20 hearing by the Intelligence Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives in which FBI Director James Comey was asked about Manafort's work in Ukraine and allegations of contacts between Manafort and Russian intelligence officials.



"This corruption must be exposed," Serhiy Leshchenko says. (RFE/RL file photo)

Comey declined to talk specifically about Manafort and others with alleged ties to Russia, but he did take the rare step of confirming that the FBI is investigating communications between Russian officials and associates of Trump.

Manafort resigned from Trump's campaign last summer following allegations of contacts with Russian intelligence officials, and media reports have indicated that the FBI is investigating those allegations. He said previously that he has never had contact with Russian agents, at least not knowingly.

"It's not like these people wear badges that say, 'I'm a Russian intelligence officer,'" he said in February.

The White House tried to distance itself from Manafort as the congressional hearing was still under way on March 20, with spokesman Sean Spicer describing the former campaign chairman as having "played a very limited role for a very limited time."

Trump hired Manafort to head his delegate efforts for his Republican primary campaign on March 28 last year and kept him on staff until he resigned on August 19, after the disclosure of the "black ledger."

Before he worked for Trump, Manafort worked for more than a decade for Russia-friendly political parties and oligarchs in Ukraine.

Yanukovych fled to Russia after being pushed from power in February 2014 by pro-Western protesters incensed at his decision to abandon plans for a pact tightening Ukraine's ties with the European Union. Leshchenko was a prominent figure in the Euromaidan protests and was elected to parliament later in 2014.

Manafort agrees to testify in Russia probe

(RFE/RL)—President Donald Trump's former campaign manager has volunteered to speak to a U.S. congressional committee that is investigating Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Republican Representative Devin Nunes, who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, said on March 24 that Paul Manafort's lawyer contacted his committee the previous day and offered to make his client available to lawmakers.

The committee is investigating alleged ties between Trump associates and Russia, as well as what U.S. intelligence officials have described as Kremlin-directed interference in the U.S. election.

Nunes thanked Manafort "for volunteering," saying congressional investigators "encourage others with knowledge of these issues to voluntarily interview with the committee."

Nunes said his panel would coordinate with Manafort's lawyers on whether his testimony would be public.

Manafort's spokesman, Jason Maloni, confirmed that Manafort would testify in the congressional investigation.

"Mr. Manafort instructed his representatives to reach out to committee staff and offer to provide information voluntarily regarding recent allegations about Russian interference in the election," Maloni told The New York Times.

"As Mr. Manafort has always maintained, he looks forward to meeting with those conducting serious investigations of these issues to discuss the facts," Maloni said.

News of Manafort's proposed testimony came days after the Associated Press reported that Manafort previously worked for Kremlin-connected Russian billionaire Oleg Deripaska and, as early as 2005, proposed a political strategy involving a public influence campaign to benefit Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Manafort resigned as Trump's campaign chief in August 2016 following reports of illicit payments related to his previous work for the political party of Ukraine's pro-Russian former president, Viktor Yanukovych.

FBI Director James Comey on March 20 confirmed publicly that his agency was conducting investigations into communications between Russian officials and Trump associates.

U.S. intelligence agencies released a report in January assessing that Russia conducted a hacking-and-influence campaign aimed at denigrating Trump's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. The Kremlin rejects the allegation.

After initially expressing skepticism about that assessment, Trump said he now thought Russia was behind the hacking campaign. But Trump continues to insist it had no impact on the outcome of the election.

The White House said earlier this week Trump did not know his former campaign chairman had worked for Deripaska and had proposed a political strategy to help Putin.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer on March 22 insisted the work Manafort did for Deripaska had taken place a decade ago and was irrelevant to Manafort's job with Trump's 2016 election campaign.

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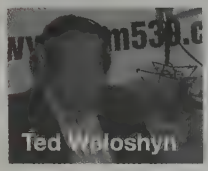

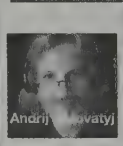

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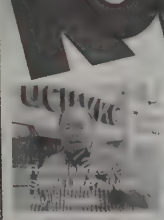

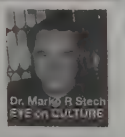

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Чи скорочують США фінансову підтримку Україні?

(Голос Америки)—У березні у Палаті представників проголосували за законопроект про національну оборону на 2017 рік, в який закладено 150 мільйонів доларів на військову допомогу Україні. В бюджеті минулого року на ці ж цілі було закладено 350 мільйонів доларів. Чи є це реальним зменшенням допомоги, чи радше особливістю бюджетного процесу, і на що в подальшому може розраховувати Україна?

Підтриманий Палатою представників законопроект виділяє 150 мільйонів доларів на решту поточного бюджетного року – тобто до 1 жовтня 2017 року.

«Хочу вас запевнити, що ніхто 350 мільйонів, що зазначаються в поточному бюджеті, що вже прийнятий, не знімав», – заявив посол України в США Валерій Чалий.

Оскільки бюджет на оборону на 2017 рік не був вчасно прийнятий, діє так звана бюджетна резолюція (Continuing Resolution). Згідно з нею, гроші витрачаються відповідно до обсягів, закладених в бюджет попереднього року.

Екс-помічник заступника міністра оборони з питань Росії, України та Євразії Майкл Карпентер пояснює:

«350 мільйонів безпекової допомоги для України витрачають уже зараз. Їх витрачають останні 9 місяців – ми продовжуємо надавати обладнання, проводити навчання у Яворові».

За бюджет про національну оборону має ще бути проголосовано в Сенаті, який може запропонувати власну версію, а потім – підписаний президентом. Не виключено, що сума допомоги Україні в Сенаті зросте. Це вже траплялося раніше, адже в ключових для цього процесу комітетах Сенату – «друзі України».

Зокрема, комітет з питань збройних сил очолює республіканець Джон Маккейн. Військову підтримку Україні він вважає одним з ключових елементів оборонної стратегії США.

«Елементи нового підходу в Європі явні. Це – посилення присутності американських збройних сил. Подальша модернізація нашої ядерної тріади. Надання оборонної летальної зброї Україні», – зазначив впливовий американський сенатор.

Ілюстраційне фото. Вогонь з американського протитанкового ракетного комплексу Javelin. Дискусії про надання Україні летального озброєння не вщухають

Демократ Ричард Дурбін очолює підкомітет з оборони Комітету з асигнувань, який є основним комітетом з підготовки та схвалення бюджетних документів. Він нещодавно повернувся з України. На зустрічі з українською діаспорою у Чикаго Дурбін розповів, що побачив прогрес реформ в Україні та почув від президента Петра Порошенка прохання про надання протитанкової зброї.

«Ми маємо зробити усе, аби Державний департамент та Міністерство оборони переконалися, що ми надаємо українцям солідний пакет допомоги, щоб вони могли себе захистити», – заявив сенатор Дурбін в інтерв'ю UaPost.

Дія бюджетної резолюції, за якої тепер відбувається надання допомоги Україні, закінчується 28 квітня. Повільний процес прийняття оборонного бюджету, пояснює Майкл Карпентер, може негативно вплинути на подальшу військову підтримку України з боку США.

«Після того, як Конгрес визначає скільки грошей виділити, тільки потім засідає Пентагон і вирішує, як витратити ці гроші. Головний засіб спілкування із українським урядом – через мультинаціональну об'єднану комісію. Вона включає США, Велику Британію, Литву, Канаду і тепер Польщу. Вони сідають за стіл і говорять про те, як раціоналізувати безпекову допомогу, що вони вважають пріоритетом і як відповідати на ці виклики. Такі розмови відбуваються між посадовцями Пентагону й українськими посадовцями та представниками іншими країн, тому що ми не хочемо вдруге надавати ту ж саму допомогу, яку вже надали інші країни, і ми хочемо, щоб кожна країна надавала допомогу, необхідну Україні», -- зазначив Карпентер.

Іноді, коли рішення про конкретну допомогу прийнято, надати її можна швидко. Але – не завжди.

«Це американські військові контракти на зброю чи техніку, прилади нічного бачення, шоломи, бронежилети, які закуповують у компаній, які працюють за контрактом. Часом це обладнання доступне і є на складах, і щойно рішення приймають, його можна відправити до України. Іноді цю зброю ще треба виробити на заводі. І коли вона виготовлена, її відправляють», – каже Карпентер.

Аргументом на користь подальшої допомоги Україні може бути ефективність існуючої співпраці. Взаємодією з українцями в Пентагоні задоволені, говорить колишній високопосадовець Міністерства оборони Майкл Карпентер:

«Звісно, часом є якась бюрократична тяганина, у нас були певні проблеми із митницею. Але в такому разі ми звертались до своїх колег у Міністерстві оборони й казали: «Дивіться, ми маємо проблему, чи ви можете допомогти нам її вирішити?» І через кілька днів чи тижнів ці проблеми вирішувались. Тож дійсно, чимало цієї допомоги потрапило до солдатів, це й була наша мета. У нас були гарні робочі відносини. Усі проблеми, які ми мали на початку, зараз цілком задовільно вирішені».

Українська діаспора в США закликала Тіллерсона відвідати Україну

(Голос Америки)—Український конгресовий комітет Америки звернувся до держсекретаря США з проханням відвідати Україну в ході запланованого на квітень європейського турне.

«Українські американці, разом з етнічними громадами Центральної та Східної Європи, які проживають у США, єдині у своїй підтримці незалежності та територіальної цілісності України», – йдеться у листі голови Українського конгресового комітету Америки Андрія Футея, адресованому державному секретарю США Рексу Тіллерсону.

Ця підтримка, пише Футей, відображає офіційну політику США, яка стала законом з підписанням у 2014 році Акту на підтримку свободи України. Закон покликаний «допомогти уряду України у відновленні суверенітету та територіальної цілісності, щоб стримувати Російську Федерацію від подальшої дестабілізації та вторгнення в Україні та в інші незалежні держави».

За словами президента УККА, нещодавно Державний департамент США підтвердив свої відданість суверенній і цілісній Україні, продовжуючи офіційну політику США невизнання незаконної спроби анексії Криму Росією та її тривалого порушення міжнародного права.

«Ми закликаємо Вас підтримати ці слова діями», – йдеться у листі УККА. – Отож, ми ласкаво просимо Вас, пане Тіллерсон, відвідати Україну в ході Вашого квітневого європейського турне».

Називаючи США бастіоном демократії у вільному світі, Андрій Футей зазначає, що «Сполучені Штати повинні вдатися до рішучих дій для сприяння стабілізації транснаціональної і трансатлантичної безпекової обстановки, яка явно служить національним інтересам усіх американців. Ми твердо віримо, що такий візит свідчитиме про непохитну відданість США суверенітету і територіальній цілісності України і їх підтримку стратегічних партнерів, які стали жертвами тривалої агресії з боку Росії», – йдеться у листі української діаспори в США.

Bombardier and Vladimir Yakunin

The mystery man Canada refuses to sanction

By Mark MacKinnon, *The Globe and Mail*

It is only on Page 62 of the 63 pages of evidence Swedish prosecutors filed last week in their "aggravated bribery" case against employees of Bombardier Inc. that the name finally appears: "Yakunin" – as in Vladimir Yakunin, the long-time boss of Russian Railways.

It is a single mention in a 2014 memo. But it is clear from the context that knowing Mr. Yakunin – a confidant of Russian President Vladimir Putin – was key to getting things done in the railway sector in Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union, at least at the time it was written.

Mr. Yakunin's name is absent from documents on 100 transactions The Globe and Mail examined in a 2016 investigation involving Bombardier's Swedish subsidiary, Bombardier Transportation Sweden, and a mysterious shell company called Multiserv Overseas Ltd. that is at the centre of some of the allegations now before a Stockholm court. But there was a hint: Company registration documents showed Multiserv Overseas was founded by a man frequently referred to in Russian media as a business associate of Mr. Yakunin's.

More curiously, Mr. Yakunin's name was absent from the list of Kremlin-connected individuals Ottawa targeted for sanctions over Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

Although Mr. Yakunin was among the first people the United States targeted for sanctions – the Treasury Department said "Yakunin is being designated because of his official position in the Russian government, but he is also a close confidant of Putin" – the former railway czar has managed to stay off the Canadian list through 13 extensions (including sanctions related to Russia's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine) as well as a change in government from Stephen Harper's Conservatives to Justin Trudeau's Liberals.

When Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland was on the opposition benches, she called the Harper government "hypocritical" for leaving Mr. Yakunin – as well as Igor Sechin, chairman of the state-owned Rosneft oil giant, and another close ally of Mr. Putin – off its sanctions list. "When will this government match its actions to its rhetoric and sanction Sechin and Yakunin?" she asked the House of Commons in February, 2015.

But her government – which added 15 new names to the sanctions list in November – has also avoided targeting Mr. Yakunin.

A spokesman for Ms. Freeland said on Monday that the Liberal government imposes sanctions on people who had a role in the annexation of Crimea. "We will continue to sanction those individuals involved in Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its destabilizing activities in Ukraine," he said.

So who is Mr. Yakunin, the often-unsaid name at the centre of questions surrounding the way Bombardier's rail division allegedly does business in Russia and the former Soviet Union?

The 68-year-old became a millionaire during his decade at the helm of Russian Railways. The Russian edition of Forbes magazine reported that Mr. Yakunin drew an $11-million (U.S.) salary in 2014, the year he was placed on the U.S. sanctions list.

Two things that are clear are that Mr. Yakunin had close personal connections to Mr. Putin, and that Bombardier's fortunes in Russia improved after Mr. Yakunin took over the top post of Russian Railways in 2005.

The ties to Mr. Putin date back to the 1990s, before Mr. Putin's rise to the presidency. The two men owned neighbouring dachas – Russian country cottages – on the shores of Lake Kolomenskoye, outside Mr. Putin's native St. Petersburg. With six others, they formed a dacha co-operative known as Ozero, a group Mr. Putin has remained close to throughout his 17 years as either President or prime minister, repeatedly calling on members of the dacha club to fill key posts.

Another Ozero founder, Yuriy Kovalchuk, has been targeted by Canada (as well as the United States and European Union) for sanctions over Crimea. The U.S. Treasury Department dubbed Mr. Kovalchuk the "cashier" for Mr. Putin's personal wealth.

So why are Mr. Kovalchuk and so many other members of Mr. Putin's inner circle fair game for sanctions when Mr. Yakunin still is not?

That is where the ties between Bombardier and Russian Railways appear to come in. In response to The Globe's investigation into Multiserv Overseas,

Vladimir Yakunin (left) confers with Vladimir Putin

Bombardier's vice-president of communications and public affairs, Mike Nadolski, insisted that Multiserv Overseas was a legitimate business partner.

But he acknowledged Bombardier had indeed lobbied to keep Mr. Yakunin's name off the sanctions list. "We informed the Canadian government of Bombardier's investments and interests in Russia when Canada was considering imposing sanctions. Our main concern was ensuring that our rail business would not be placed at a competitive disadvantage against our global competitors," Mr. Nadolski wrote, noting that Mr. Yakunin was not facing sanctions from the EU, China, Japan or South Korea. "Including Mr. Yakunin on Canada's sanctions list could have unilaterally harmed a Canadian business."

In e-mailed replies to questions from The Globe and Mail about Multiserv Overseas and his relationship with Bombardier, Mr. Yakunin lavished praise on former Bombardier chief executive officer Laurent Beaudoin, calling him "one of the greatest professionals I have ever met."

Mr. Yakunin announced his sudden retirement from Russian Railways after media reports alleged he had funnelled contracts worth billions of dollars to close business associates using shell companies to disguise the ultimate beneficiaries.

In an internal Bombardier e-mail from September, 2015, that was presented in Swedish court on Friday, Multiserv Overseas is described as "owned by the management of the public sector companies involved in these trades and used as a vehicle to siphon monies from the public sector into private pockets." (The allegations in Sweden relate to a single 2013 deal that Bombardier Transportation Sweden did in Azerbaijan, partly via Multiserv Overseas. The deal was one of the 100 transactions The Globe looked at in its 2016 investigation involving the sale of Bombardier signalling equipment into Russia via the same shell company.)

The Globe and Mail's investigation revealed that Multiserv Overseas – which has a constantly shifting ownership and management structure – was founded in 2010 by Yuriy Obodovskiy, a long-time associate of Mr. Yakunin's.

In his e-mail exchange with The Globe and Mail last year, Mr. Yakunin said he only "vaguely recall[ed] the name Multiserv" and said it was "simply impossible" that Russian Railways contracts were improperly awarded.

But the 2014 memo found at the end of the 63 pages entered as evidence in Stockholm last week draws a clear line between Mr. Obodovskiy – who is also deputy chairman of the board of Elteza, a joint venture between Bombardier and Russian Railways – and Mr. Yakunin.

The memo appears to have been prepared for a Bombardier employee who was going to meet Mr. Obodovskiy. It says Mr. Obodovskiy is part of a "small group of powerful people" that the author of the memo calls "the Partners."

Then, finally, comes Mr. Yakunin's name: "Partners have access to Yakunin and all key members of [Russian Railways] management except [one vice-president of the company]. Also they have access to almost all heads of Railways of former USSR countries. Having such connections, they can influence to decision taken from both technical and commercial sides."

It is not clear what influence Mr. Yakunin retained after his formal departure from Russian Railways in August, 2015. The transactions between Bombardier Transportation Sweden and Multiserv Overseas continued until at least October, 2016.

With a report from Robert Fife

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Обшуки у НБУ пов'язані з керівництвом банку – Ситник

(Радіо Свобода)—Керівник Національного антикорупційного бюро України Артем Ситник повідомляє, що обшуки у Нацбанку 29 березня стосуються керівництва НБУ.

«Це справа, про яку раніше говорили і яка стосується керівництва Національного банку України», – сказав Ситник у середу в ефірі телеканалу ZIK.

«Важко це назвати класичними обшуками, оскільки жодного спротиву з боку працівників НБУ щодо виконання процесуальних дій не було. Вони зустріли наших працівників і видали документи, які потрібні були детективам. Розслідування у цій справі триває», – зазначив Ситник.

29 березня детективи НАБУ провели обшуки у приміщенні Національного банку України.

У лютому в НАБУ повідомляли про намір зареєструвати провадження за фактом можливих зловживань посадовими особами Національного банку України і фонду гарантування вкладів фізичних осіб, зокрема, за фактом оприлюднених записів переговорів заступника голови НБУ Катерини Рожкової.

Крім того, восени минулого року у Службі безпеки України повідомили, що проведуть експертизи записів телефонних переговорів Катерини Рожкової з керівниками російських банків.

«Мавка. Лісова пісня»

Український мультфільм про Мавку отримав перше визнання у Європі

(Голос Америки)—Завдяки успішній презентації мультфільму «Мавка. Лісова пісня» на найбільшому анімаційному форумі Європи Cartoon Movie, де Україна була представлена вперше, продюсери отримали багато схвальних відгуків та пропозицій співпраці від професіоналів з Європи.

Головна героїня мультфільму Мавка прикрасила березневу обкладинку цього видання (офіційного партнера заходу), яке великим тиражем розповсюджувалося на форумі в Бордо, Франція. Це було частиною продуманої кампанії, яка забезпечила команді творців ефективний пітч і поштовх до розвитку.

Мультфільм привернув увагу потенційних європейських партнерів по копродукції, інвесторів, дистриб'юторів і бродкастерів. У традиційному для форуму анкетуванні багато з учасників назвали пітч «Мавки» найкращим з 50-ти проектів. Продюсери отримали відгуки від значних гравців анімаційного ринку, серед яких The Walt Disney Company. Усі вони відзначили потужність та унікальність головної героїні, високу якість візуальних матеріалів, величезний міжнародний потенціал проекту.

До представлення проекту продюсери Ірина Костюк, Анна Єлісєєва, Єгор Олєсов, тауся команда студії Animagrad готувалися кілька місяців. На презентації представили робочі кадри під автентичну музику, написану групою «ДахаБраха». Самі члени команди були одягнені в оригінальні костюми, розроблені дизайнером Ольгою Навроцькою.

«Ми завчасно розуміли, що цей пітчинг дуже важливий для нашої студії, – наголошує креативний продюсер проекту Анна Єлісєєва, – адже перша поява «Мавки» на міжнародній сцені – це не тільки потенційне партнерство з європейськими компаніями, але й реноме проекту на ринку в наступні два роки, протягом яких буде проводитись робота над фільмом. А отже, і його доля на світових екранах. Україна – новий гравець у міжнародній анімації, і ми повинні були зробити все, щоб нас прийняли, запам'ятали та полюбили».

Розробка повнометражного мультфільму триває, реліз планується на 2019 рік. «Мавка. Лісова пісня» створюється за мотивами однойменної п'єси Лесі Українки, а також на основі українських міфів та культурних традицій. Експерти провідних етнографічних інституцій працюють у складі знімальної групи фільму над інтерпретацією українських міфів, легенд, звичаїв, обрядів та візуальної культури в унікальному анімаційному світі «Мавки».

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UCC hires National Fund Manager

(UCC National)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Janine (Asya) Kuzma as the new National Fund Development Manager.

"I am very pleased to welcome Janine to the UCC team," stated Paul Grod, National President of the UCC. "It is important for us to strengthen our capacity to deliver programs and projects and I am confident that Janine will play a key role in this regard."

Janine received her post-graduate diploma in Fundraising Management from Humber Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. She also has a BA degree in Russian and Eastern European Studies and Russian Language, and Literature from University of Toronto. She speaks English, Ukrainian, Polish, and Russian.

Janine (Asya) Kuzma

She has worked with the Ukrainian World Congress, Jack.org, Childhood Cancer Canada and most recently with University of Toronto Schools (UTS). At UTS she developed a full strategic plan to support a $60 million capital campaign as well as on annual giving campaign, prospect research and stewardship programs.

Kuzma is responsible for advancing the mission of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress by fostering strong relationships with current and potential individual and corporate donors. She will work closely with the UCC Fundraising committee to develop and advance UCC campaigns, maximizing the revenue potential of special events, sponsorship and advertising. She can be reached at Janine.Kuzma@ucc.ca or 416-524-7665.

To learn more about the ways you can support the work and programs of the Ukrainian Canada Congress please visit http://www.ucc.ca/donate/ways-to-donate/

Poland shuts down Ukraine consulates following Lutsk grenade attack

(RFE/RL)—Poland has temporarily shut down its consulates in Ukraine after a grenade attack damaged one of them in the border town of Lutsk early on March 29.

Both Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Polish President Andrzej Duda condemned the attack, in which no one was injured.

The Ukrainian security forces issued a statement saying the incident was one of a series of «provocations against the Republic of Poland» that «are of benefit only to one party — the Russian Federation.»

A Poroshenko spokesman claimed on social media that Russian provocateurs had tried to orchestrate a prank phone call with Poroshenko by claiming to be Duda.

In an earlier phone call between the two presidents, Poroshenko invited Poland to participate in the investigation of the Lutsk attack.

Relations between Poland and Ukraine have been tested in recent months by several incidents of vandalism of World War II monuments that officials from both countries have also blamed on Russia.

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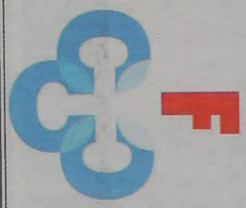

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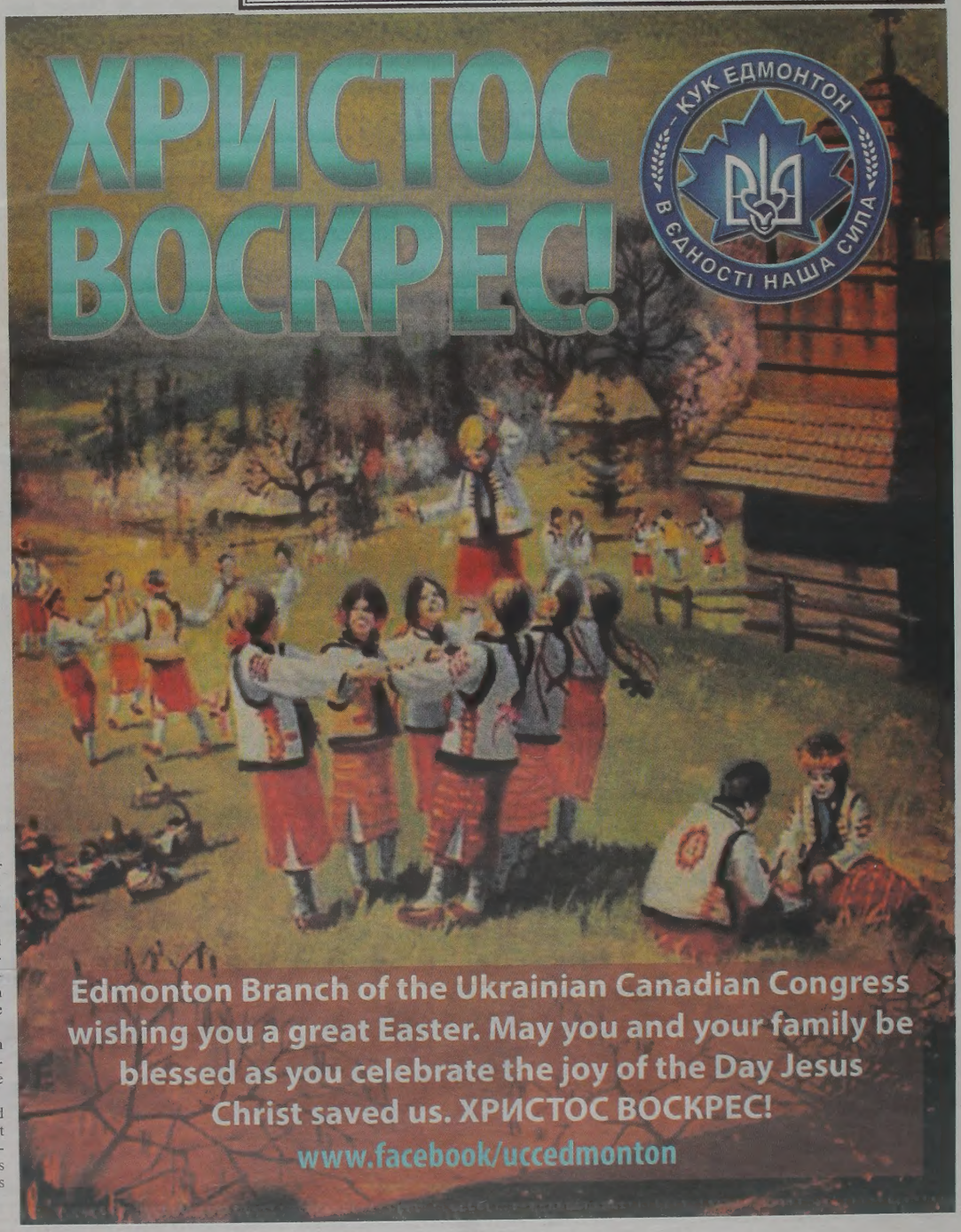

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Konowal to be honoured in France

By Kent Spencer,
Postmedia Network

Sgt. Robert Harley pictured with memorabilia from Cpl Filip Konowal of the 47th Battalion who won a Victoria Cross during WWI. (Jenelle Schneider/Postmedia Network)

Victoria Cross winner Filip Konowal, who served with a New Westminster-raised battalion during the First World War, will be honoured with a commemorative walk next month in Northern France, at a spot a few hundred metres from his most famous encounter.

Konowal, of the 47th battalion, is the only Ukrainian-Canadian to be honoured with that supreme military distinction for valour.

"It's really neat. This is the most important thing we could have done to recall his memory," said Lubomyr Luciuk, a Canadian academic who spearheaded the Konowal walk fundraiser for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Konowal's story is one of the most unusual in Canadian military annals. Born in Ukraine, he was a bayonet instructor in the Tsarist Russian army before immigrating to Vancouver in 1913. He joined up in Ontario in 1915 and once he arrived in France was transferred to what is now called the Royal Westminster regiment.

Attaining the rank of corporal, Konowal was credited with killing 16 German soldiers, mostly with his bayonet, in house-to-house fighting in the city of Lens in August, 1917, close to a place called Hill 70. A few days later he was shot in the head by a sniper, which led to lifelong health problems, said Luciuk.

Invalided out of action, in 1919 Konowal stabbed a man to death while defending a friend in Hull, Quebec. He was found "not guilty by reason of insanity" and confined to a mental asylum for seven years.

Upon his release, Konowal eventually found work as a janitor in the House of Commons, where he was spotted by Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King wearing a small replica of his Victoria Cross. King hired Konowal into his own office as a special custodian and he was able to turn his life around.

Konowal was buried with full military honours in Ottawa's Notre Dame cemetery in 1959.

Luciuk said a ceremony to open Konowal's walk will be held on April 8 near Lens. The walk is part of a larger $12 million memorial at Hill 70, which has been built to call attention to the often overlooked battle.

Hill 70 was attacked by all four Canadian divisions after Canadian Corps commander General Sir Arthur Currie convinced his British overlords that it was a safer and smarter bet than directly attacking the heavily fortified city of Lens. His logic was that Hill 70 overlooked Lens and so once secured could be used to lay down accurate artillery fire. The ten day battle began on Aug. 15 — four months after the Battle of Vimy Ridge — and was a success. Six VC's were awarded to Canadian soldiers at Hill 70, two more than were given at Vimy Ridge.

Hill 70 committee chair Mark Hutchings, a retired colonel, said it was the first time the Canadian Corps had been commanded by a Canadian general and that Currie was his own man, planning and executing the assault according to his own counsel.

"A beautiful set-piece victory was won. Politics changed after Hill 70. Canada had its own seat at the peace talks," Hutchings said, noting the link between military power and political status.

Committee member Rob Baxter added Currie was a long-time resident of Victoria who rose from the rank of corporal in 1900 to commander of the Canadian Corps.

"He could take a piece of topography and read the land like a palm reader," Baxter said. "He would argue with the British senior staff. You didn't do that. You got sent home."

The group's memorial includes a 17-metre high obelisk made from white limestone, a Maple Leaf measuring 20 metres across, 18 interpretive panels and six walkways for the medal winners. Eight hectares of land have been donated by the French government.

For more information on Konowal, read Luciuk's book, titled "A Canadian Hero: Corporal Filip Konowal, VC and the Battle of Hill 70": (Kingston: Kashtan Press, 2017).

The non-profit committee's website is at hill70.ca.

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Sunday Headliner – TIK

Weekend Passes for only $95 + GST
Day Passes and Camping Passes will also be available.
Get your tickets from the office in the Plaze off Main or call 204-622-4600.
Visit www.cnuf.ca for updates.

Also like CNUF on facebook!

HAPPY Easter

Wishing you and your family a very happy Easter that is filled with love and happiness.

Brian Jean
Leader of the Wildrose Official Opposition